central VOICE

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2007

The Eclectic Shopper
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Gifts @ Lancaster First Friday

2010 Event

Gay Rodeo Tours PA Farm Show: 2-4,000 Visitors & $1 Million Expected

Jen Vrana, president of the Philadelphia-based Liberty Gay Rodeo Association (LGRA), and her colleagues were impressed with the PA Farm Show facilities after completing a walk-through June 27. "We've had our eye on Harrisburg for some time," she said.

Central Voice publisher Frank Pizzoli and Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce president Russell A. Boggs joined the visiting team's tour.

The organization hopes to bring the International Gay Rodeo Finals (IGRA) to Harrisburg on November 12-14, 2010. IGRA is comprised of 26 regional associations from around the US and Canada. Harrisburg is located within equal driving distance of two of the associations. Vrana and her group begin pitching the idea this month through the maze of organizations that make up gay and lesbian rodeo in the US and worldwide. A final decision is expected by July 28.

Vrana's entire board and the board of the Washington, DC-based Atlantic Stampede Gay Rodeo Association (ASGRA) made a second visit to the Farm Show during last July's Pride Festival weekend, where the group hosted a booth to assess interest in the event. They found the farm show facility to be "very open and airy and capable of housing all the events that take place during an international rodeo, "says Mike Sanders, president of Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association (ASGRA).

Economic Spin-off

Based on an economic impact study, Vrana forecasts that the international event would bring more than $1 million to the local Harrisburg economy. If successful with bringing the event to Harrisburg,

Economic Impact

- $1 Million (or more) over 3-4 days
- 2-4,000 visitors
- 200 hotel rooms
- Gettysburg Battlefield visit

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US Senate Backs Hate Crimes Bill Including Gays

The US Senate approved an amendment to the 2008 Senate Defense Reauthorization Bill [HR 1585] by unanimous voice vote that would expand federal hate crimes legislation. Among its provisions, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 [S 1105] broadens the definition of a hate crime to include violent attacks against people based on their gender or sexuality and makes it easier for federal law enforcement to become involved in hate crimes cases.

The bill is named for Matthew Shepard (see page 13), a gay college student who was killed because of his sexual orientation. Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Gordon Smith (R-OR) co-sponsored the measure and applauded the amendment's passage Thursday. The US House of Representatives passed its version of the bill in May.

The White House has repeatedly threatened to veto the hate crimes legislation, leading many Senate Republicans to argue that Senate Democrats attached the hate crimes amendment to the bill authorizing Department of Defense funding to force US President George W. Bush's approval. Senate Democrats countered by arguing that the hate crimes amendment legitimately deals with domestic terrorism, while the Defense Reauthorization Bill relates to international terrorism.

Holiday Gift Ideas

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- Gift Certificates to Blue Bistro & Wine Bar —*Page 31*
- What's in Pat Craig's Closet? —*Page 35*
- Higashi Pearls & NOA Dynamic Designer Him or Her Watches —*Page 23*
- Deb Bixler, Central Voice Writer, Writes Children's Book —*Page 32*
- John DiLeo, Central Voice Writer, Publishes New Book —*Page 32*

Central Voice Talks to Edmund White for Lambda Book Report

Central Voice publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli recently interviewed gay author and icon Edmund White for Lambda Book Review and reviewed one of his two latest novels "Chaos: A Novella and Short Stories". White's other recently released novel is "Hotel de Dream," a historical novel on the sleazy back story of Stephen Crane's life.

For a copy of the entire interview, please email posops@aol.com.

The book review is on Page 36.

AUTHOR

Edmund White was born on January 13, 1940, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Precocious at conception, in his 1991 essay titled "Out of the Closet, Onto the Bookshelf," White has written, "As a young teenager I looked desperately for things to read that might excuse me or assure me I wasn't the only one that might confirm an identity I was unhappily piecing together. In the early 1950s, the only books I could find in the Evanston, Illinois,

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FROM ROBERT HOOBLER, EXIT PLATINUM PLUS REALTY, BROKER/OWNER

"Hello Jerry, I want to thank you and Russel for a job well done. You were able to keep me informed of what the buyer needed and what their thoughts and goals were during the home buying process. I thank you for your professionalism and getting all the buyers concerns worked out. The best thing about working with you is when you say things like we had a small issue and you resolved it before the buyer or I even knew about it.
I LOVE IT!! I love working with you! Keep up the great work and thank you for all of your hard work!"

FROM GREG ALLEN, REMAX REALTY PROFFESIONALS, REALTOR

"Jerry will ask the right questions to better understand your goals and prepare you to make your homebuying experience easy. Jerry and Primary Lending will cut the "red tape" out of the situation. He will shop to get you the best legitimate deal, and most of all, Jerry makes your dream a reality!! Thank you Jerry!!"

FROM YOLANDA ROTHENBERGER, CENTURY 21 PISCIONERI, REALTOR

"Russel and Jerry make the process run smoothly every time. When issues arise, they always handle them, and make it look easy. The first time homebuyers that I have dealt with love working with Russel and Jerry because they are always willing to take the time needed to not only explain the process, but also to make sure that the loan they are putting together is the one that best suits each customer's individual needs. Russel and Jerry, thank you for making my job easier and taking excellent care of my customers."

High Court to Hear Lethal Injection Case

The execution chamber at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville, Tenn.

In January 2008, the Supreme Court will hear a new challenge to the way states carry out executions by lethal injection, possibly banning use of chemical concoctions that might cause dying inmates excruciating pain. Such a ruling would not prohibit lethal injections, but it could force officials in most states to use new or different chemicals so that inmates are not subjected to an "unnecessary risk of pain and suffering." A ruling is expected by June.

Death penalty opponents were hopeful that states and courts would call a temporary halt to such executions, at least until the high court decides the case.

In December, U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel in San Jose blocked California from carrying out executions using the older chemical concoction on the grounds that it posed an unnecessary risk of a painful death.

In July, lawyers for two Kentucky death row inmates appealed to the Supreme Court, citing Fogel's ruling. They urged the justices to adopt the "unnecessary risk" rule as a constitutional standard for deciding what constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment."

There have been 1,098 executions, 927 of them by lethal injection, since the Supreme Court, which halted executions in 1972, allowed them to resume in 1976. The number of executions peaked at 98 in 1999 and fell to 53 last year. So far this year, 42 people have been executed. No state except Texas has put to death more than three people this year. Texas has executed 25 inmates by lethal injection.

World AIDS Day: Candlelight Vigil at Lebanon Valley College

Saturday, December 1 at 5:00 p.m. • Miller Chapel Narthex

Each year, the students of Freedom Rings sponsor a candlelight vigil to remember those who have been lost to and suffered from the nondiscriminatory and devastating disease AIDS. All are welcome, as are any poems, remembrances, or songs to be shared.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Common Roads Winter Arts Festival

In its third year, Winter Arts is a community wide, month long celebration of glbt arts in the Central PA region. Hosted by Common Roads it features educational and outreach elements targeted to sexual minorities and the general population. For 2008 Winter Arts is also a celebration of 15 years of Common Roads providing education, advocacy and programming in support of sexual minority youth in the Central PA Region. www.commonroads.org-

Coming Out! 15 Artists/15 Years of Common Roads

An art exhibition celebrating 15 years of Common Roads and LGBT History

Feb. 10, 3-6 pm Premiere Reception @ WITF Public Media Center

By invitation only. Call 920-9534

Open to the public through March during regular WITF Public Media Center Hours

Coffeehouse Fridays

Fridays in February, coffeehouses celebrate with Common Roads

Open Mic, live entertainment and artists

Feb. 1 – Square One, Lancaster

Feb. 8 – Courthouse Commons, Carlisle (date pending)

Feb.15 – George Street Café, Millersville (date pending)

Feb.22 – Sparky & Clarks, York (date pending)

Feb. 29 – Cornerstone Coffeehouse (Tecport), Harrisburg

THE KINSEY SICKS

The gender-bending Dragapella riot (www.kinseysicks.com)

Feb. 16, 7:30 pm - Strand Capital

VIP Panel Discussion with the performers immediately after the show

Tickets available through the Strand Box Office 717-946-1111

Winter HeARTS Ball

The Official Winter Arts Party

Feb. 16, 9 pm to 2 am – Club XS

Feature Performance by NYC Diva Rachel Panay

And special guest DJ Seth Gold

Private Screening With True Royalty

Not our fairy godmother, but there at the birth of Common Roads and back for the celebration: "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"

February 17, 4:15 pm - Allen Theater, Annville

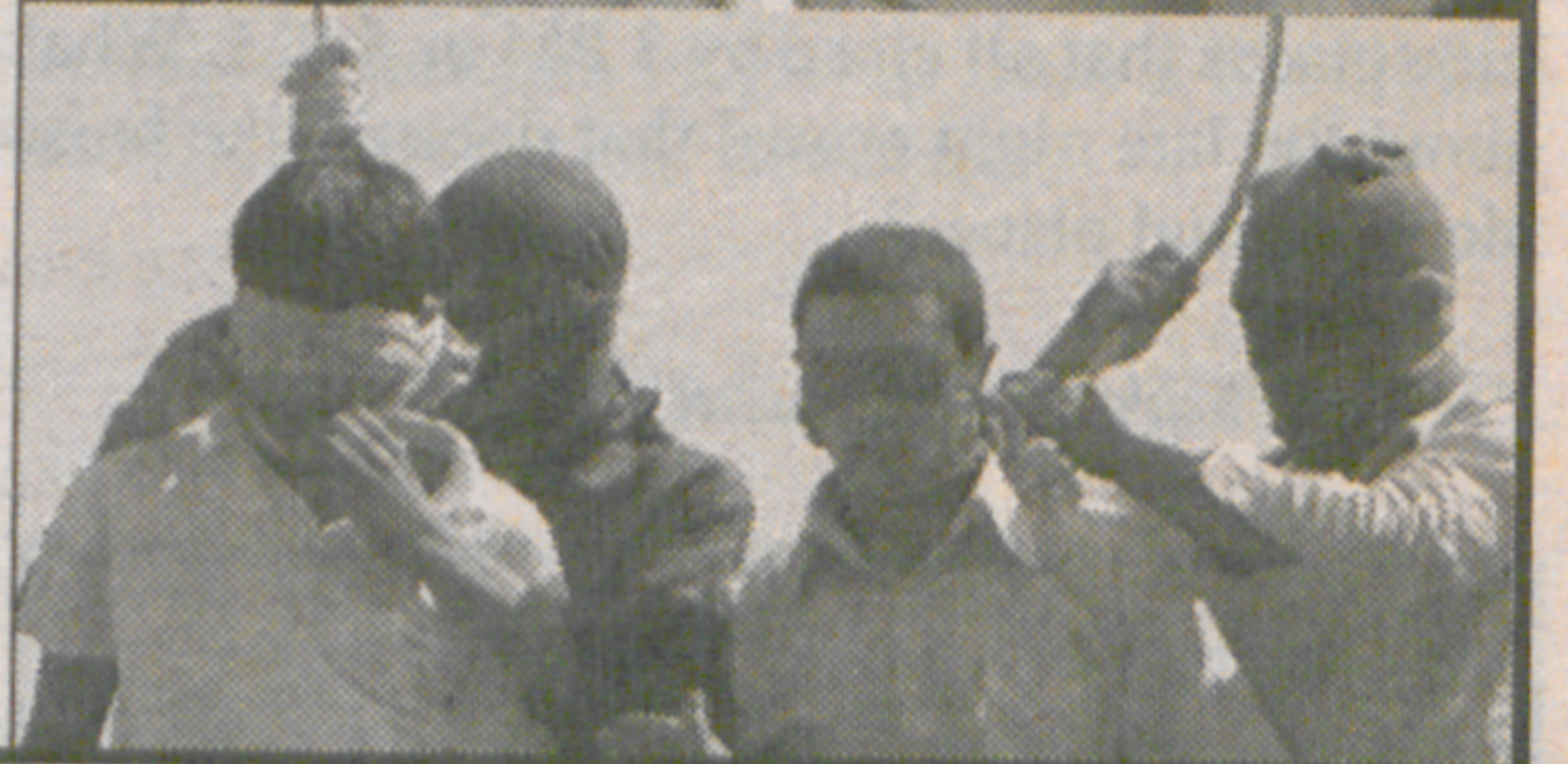
Pre-scilla reception from 3-4:15 pm at MJ's Coffeehouse

Contact Greg King at 717-433-0388 or greg@commonroads.org for more information about Winter Arts.

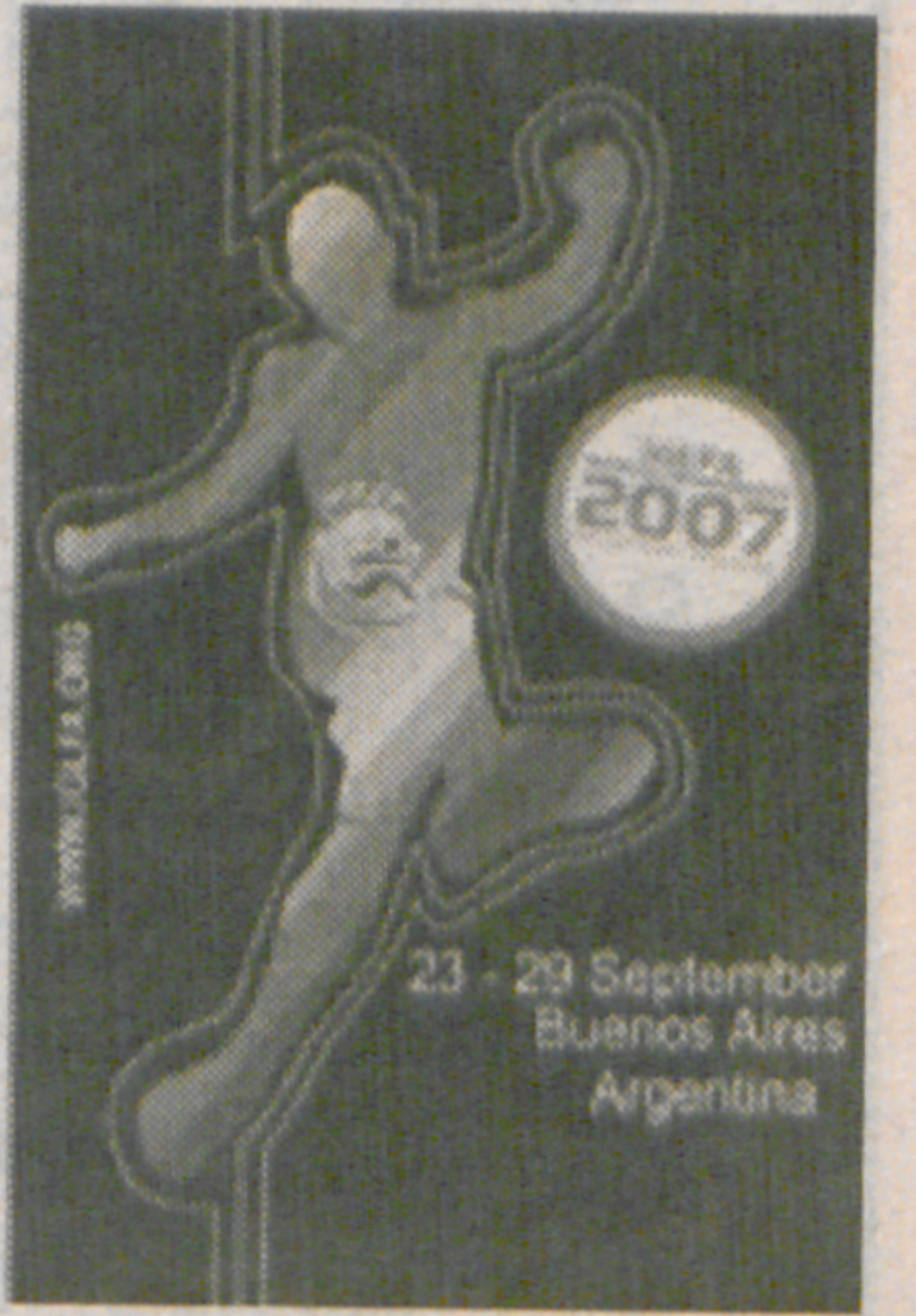
Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

"In Iran we don't have homosexuals like in your country. We don't have that like in your country. ... In Iran we do not have this phenomenon. I don't know who's told you that we have this."

Two Iranian teenage boys, age 16 and 18, were publicly executed, causing worldwide outrage.



NYC's Gay Soccer Team Plays Championship



The World Championship, organized by the International Gay and Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA), took place last Fall in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It's the first world championship of its kind in Latin America and the first international gay soccer event in South America.

"The Ramblers were excited to once again be making history and participating in this tournament in Argentina," states Hayden William Portland, NY Ramblers President. "Our founders never fathomed that what began as a small group of gay men looking to kick a ball around in 1980 has evolved into a diverse and competitive team that represents New York's gay community to the entire world."

The New York Ramblers, the first organized openly gay soccer club, will represent the United States along with 11 teams from across the country at the championship. The US teams will compete with about 400 players that represent Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Mexico, Spain, England, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Croatia, Canada, Australia and China.

"Our club is made up of members from all around the world and is representative of the diversity that characterizes New York City and the gay community at large" said Portland. "I look forward to this tournament, it will be my first international soccer tournament and I can't wait to take to the pitch. I'm looking for gold."

International News

Gay Activists Rally at Nicaraguan Embassy

Gay rights activists stage a demonstration outside the Nicaraguan embassy in Taipei yesterday, urging the Central American country to abolish an article in its criminal code that criminalizes sodomy

Shouting "Love is not a crime," activists from six non-governmental organizations shouted in Mandarin, English and Spanish outside the embassy. The international campaign was initiated by Amnesty International Mexico and also took place in 10 other countries.

"Nicaragua is the only Latin American country with a law that prohibits sex between people of the same sex," said Emily Wu, an Amnesty International Taiwan member. "That is not only a violation of the Nicaraguan Constitution, but also of international human rights." Article 204 of Nicaragua's criminal code stipulates that "anyone who induces, promotes, propagandizes or practices sexual intercourse between persons of the same sex commits the crime of sodomy and shall incur one to three years' imprisonment." The article was enacted in 1992 and remains effective today, surviving changes to laws initiated by left-wing President Daniel Ortega after his election last year.

Crises Across Africa: Uganda's Anti-Gay Stamped

Victor Juliet Mukasa, a Ugandan Trans-Lesbian Leader, defiantly returned from exile.

A new chapter opened recently in a vicious, media-led witch hunt that is outing gays in Uganda, when a daily newspaper unveiled the latest installment of what it bills as its "Weird Sex Investigation," publishing the names and detailed descriptions of 40 men it claimed are gay.

Under the shock headline "HOMO TERROR! We Name and Shame Top Gays in the City," Red Pepper's Sunday,

continued on page 13

Letters to the Editor

Better Than PGN?

We pick up Central Voice and PGN at the same time. We usually read them at the same time. You know what? Central Voice is more informative than PGN on so many levels.

Regular Reader

Late Night Coffeehouse

Why can't a coffeehouse make it in the City of Harrisburg? I mean one that can stay open late, especially on weekends? We have several nice places that all close by 3 PM or 5 PM. What about the late night crowd that doesn't like bars, alcohol, loud places?

Dianne,
Harrisburg City resident

Local Interest

Many thanks for your article (July-Aug 07) on the Green Street Vegetarian Club. Hopefully the article will lead to more local interest in vegetarianism or at least open a few more minds.

Take care,
Marshall

Common Roads

I was eating lunch in my favorite Lancaster restaurant when I opened the latest issue (Sept-Oct 07). And I LOVE THE ARTICLE FOR TROPICANZA! On behalf of myself and Common Roads thank you so much for the article, and everything. It's incredible, and really helps to show the community what working together can achieve. I hope you have a great day. You certainly made mine wonderful.

Don Blyler, III
Tropicanza Chair

What a Bite

Yet another gay Republican is busted? Bob Allen, co-chair of John McCain's Florida Campaign and a State Rep. Bob Allen, was arrested after offering to perform oral sex for $20 on an undercover male police officer. Allegedly, in a Titusville, FL park Allen was seen coming in and out of the men's restroom three times, said police Lt. Todd Hutchinson. He then approached an undercover officer and was arrested.

Let me guess: A) He was molested as a child, B) He's an alcoholic and headed to rehab, C) He will enter into Rev. Ted Haggard's "Fast-track, Reparative Therapy Program. D) All of the above.

The Republican Party should just come out of the closet and change teams. No, wait, they already did! That Kool-Aide is no longer working! Allen had a 92% positive rating from the Christian Coalition of Florida.

Richard

Awesome Coverage

AWESOME coverage of our gallery's hosting the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of commerce. Thank you.

Jim Hatfield
Co-owner, Paper Lion Gallery

Central VOICE
Central to your life.

Publisher & Editor
Frank Pizzoli
PosOps@aol.com

Correspondents
Christopher Tittel, Key West
Winnie McCroy, New York City
Michael Petrelis, San Francisco

Contributing Writers
DJ Barry
John Barnett
Derek Cordier
Kristen Richards
Yvonne Small
Sharon Muzio
Ann Elia Stewart

Columnists
Libby Post, Q Syndicate

ADVERTISING
Kristen Richards
Account Executive
717-576-4326
Ock1127@aol.com

Published by
Press And Journal, Inc.
Middletown, PA
717-944-4628 www.harrisburg.com info@harrisburg.com

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MEMBER
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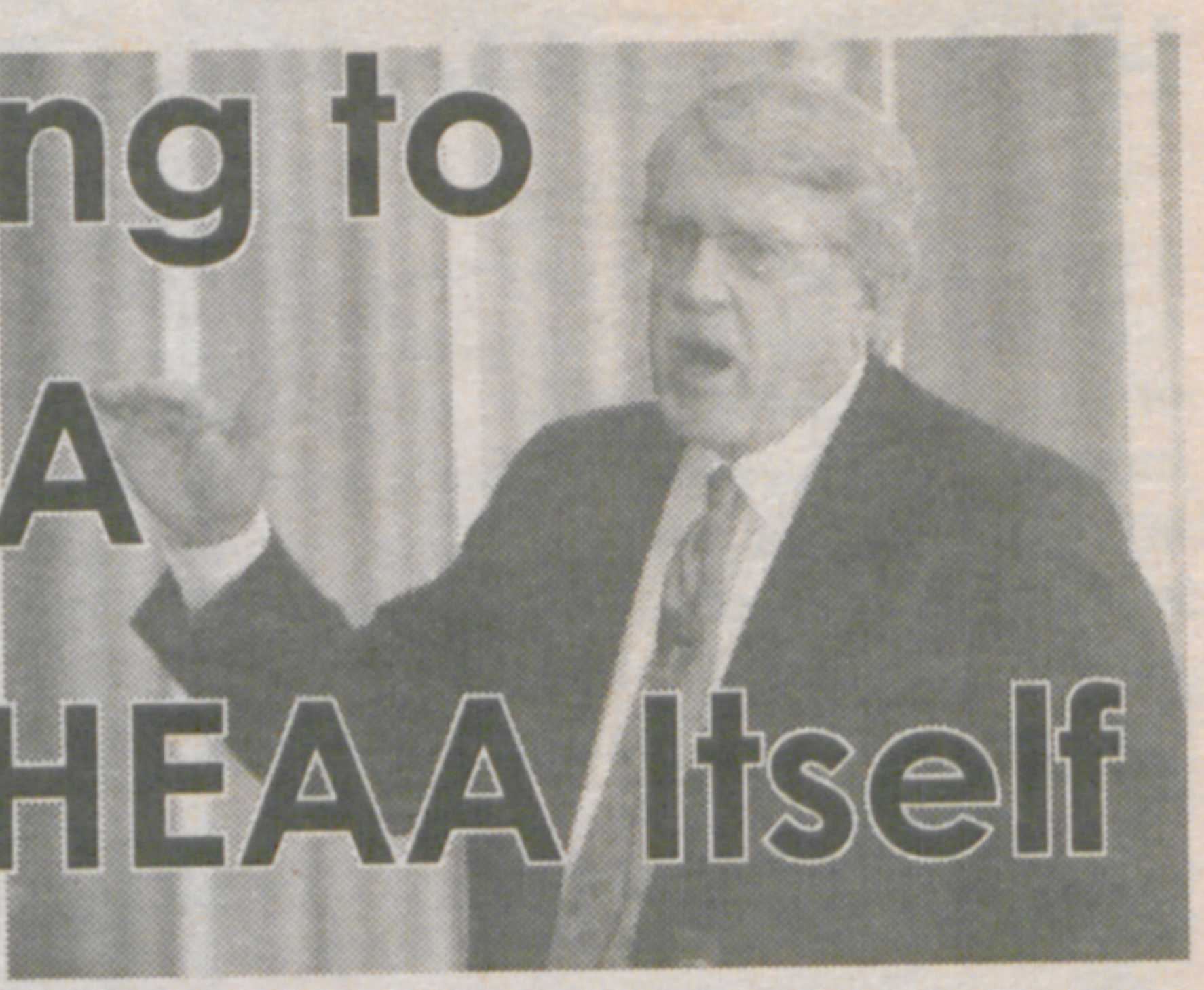
Correction: In the Sept.-Oct. 2007 issue, we overlooked a Photo Credit for ***Jeb Boyd*** in the Pride Photo section. Thank you, Jeb for your contribution.

Nothing to PHEAA but PHEAA Itself



Nothing to PHEAA?

To twist FDR's famous phrase: We have nothing to PHEAA but PHEAA itself. In the last round of "Who Has No Capacity for Shame – Me, You or PHEAA?" activist Eric Epstein, former PA Senate candidate and now casino booty consultant, thought Dick (you gotta love that first name in this instance, huh?) Willey should have seen federal belt tightening measures coming and held off Big Game Bonuses. Oh Eric, what will we do with you? Of course Big Dick saw the budget cuts coming a while back. At least far back enough to make sure he and his inner crowd got their fatty bonuses before the $19 million in cuts hit town.

Craig's List

Sen. Larry Craig gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "Craig's List". How deep in the closet must one be that in order to satisfy your, uh, urges, you knowingly submit to toe taps and hand signals to score. I'm thinking Craig will stage a comeback by mounting a Broadway show full of toe-tapping tap show tunes set against Times Square's old bus station. Watch for tunes like "Speak to Me Only with Your Toes," "My Stall Door Swings Both Ways," "Ain't No Stall Wall High Enough". A guy would have to be toe tapping Judy Garland numbers for me to even suspect it was an offer of sex.

Is Socialized Medicine "Pinko Hillarycare"?

By Marlene Lang

Faithful Republicans everywhere are trumpeting the warnings about "socialized medicine." Among them we heard Republican presidential candidate Rudi Giuliani recently, exhorting us that this Pinko Hillarycare is not the American way. When you hear those Dems throw around talk about universal health care, Giuliani warned, remember: "What they're talking about is socialized medicine."

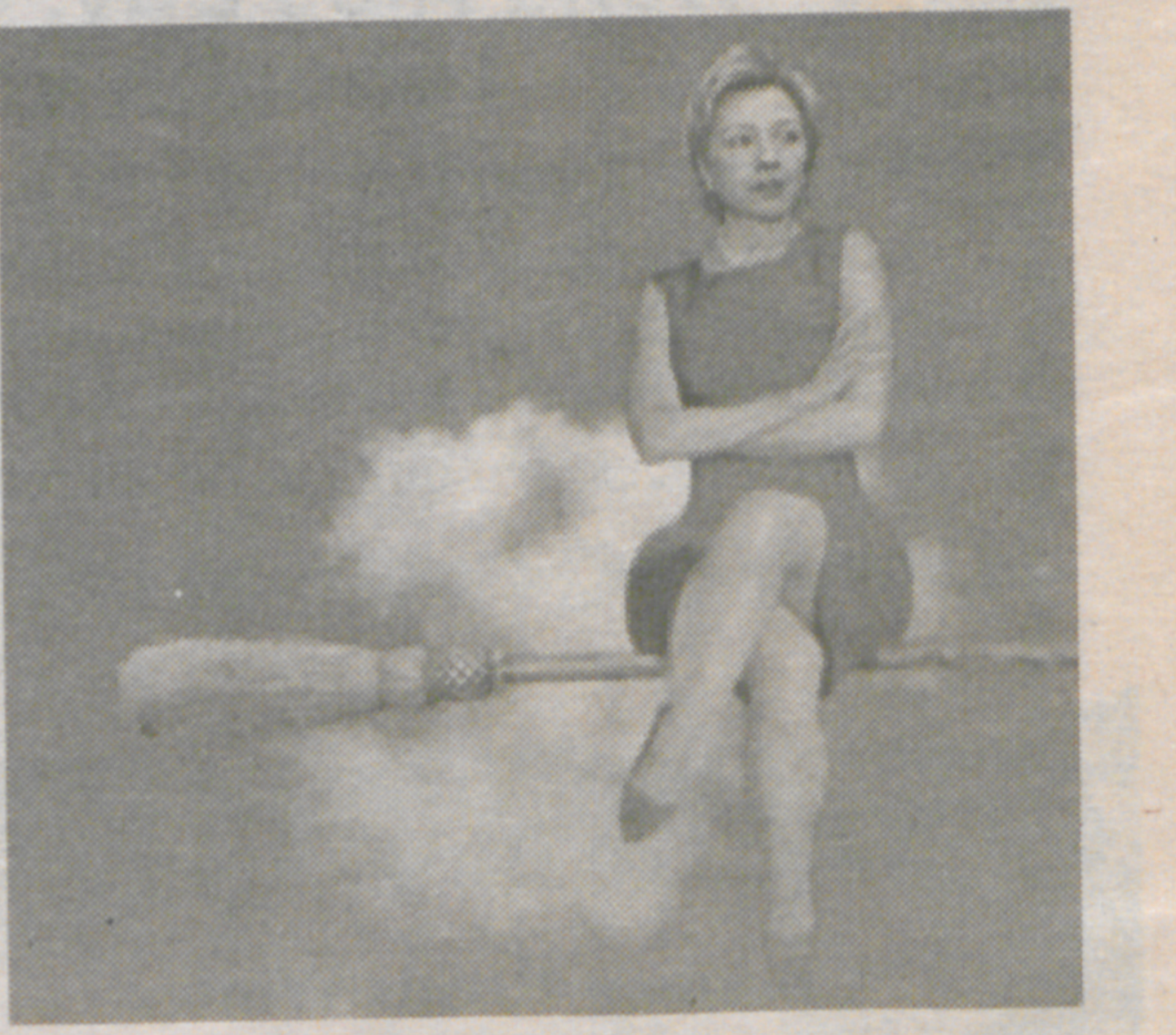
We are expected to shiver here, with a scary chill of realization running down our spines.

I say, when you hear those grave warnings about "socialized medicine," remember: What they're warning about is non-profit medicine.

Mr. Giulliani thinks someone should be making a buck when you get sick, or it's un-American.

True, free enterprise has been part of what we call the American way. I wonder, though, if free enterprise includes the obscene profits and gouging that have left Americans desperate over how to pay for the most basic health service, and devastated when the unexpected happens? We've rarely had totally "free" free enterprise. Our tradition of regulation prevents ugly abuses by profiteers who would, if they could, send small children into mine shafts because the little dumplings fit.

Giuliani cares more than that, though. He proposed giving families a $15,000 tax deduction with which to buy private health insurance. I'm trying not to laugh. One could end up with a $15,000 bill, these days, over a severe nosebleed. And that's if you have health coverage. Some uninsured working Americans don't even make that much in a year. Will they get a tax credit for the difference?



Giulliani's camp wants to sell us on privatized – not government – health care. But this is deceptive; health-related industries only appear to be operating separate from government now. In case you haven't heard, there is a black 'government' market out there, expedited by elusive characters known as lobbyists.

Here's how it works: Big, big companies band together and via the lobbyist, send lots of incentives to the guys who will pass laws that will affect their industry; Laws about how new products are approved and marketed, laws about how things are labeled and shipped and shelved. Laws about who can buy their products. Sometimes even laws requiring citizens to buy their products.

In order to insure that regulations favor their industries, the industries must ensure that the lawmakers who will favor them do, in fact, become lawmakers. This is accomplished through campaign financing, or the Buy-A-Law system.

And this, readers, is perhaps the biggest reason why health care is out of the reach of so many in America right now.

We need to ask: Does health care itself cost too much, or does the health care bill – with obscene profit-for-corporation added to bottom line – cost too much? Do not make the assumption that your med bill equals the actual cost of your care.

It represents big, fat profits, passed down, down, down to little old you. This is not the American way.

If there were no Buy-A-Law system backing up megaprofits, health care might not be so outrageously expensive.

We need to make it a non-profit gig. Giulliani must have forgotten that the American way is not only about profit but also about doing to others as you'd have them do to you.

VOICE box

Are there not enough coffee and coffeehouse lovers to support a Harrisburg City place that stays open into the night? Later on weekends?

How many of these Larry Craig, William Bennett, Rush Limbaugh, Ted Haggart – and who knows else - incidents will it take before America realizes that the family values crowd is a big, fat fraud? They are a batch of moralizing, closeted creeps and values voyeurs. It's time the Right stops pointing fingers because we have no idea where those sticky fingers might have been.

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

Join Gays Without Borders

By Michael Petrelis
SF Correspondent

A diverse group of global glbt human rights activists has launched a new network, Gays Without Borders, in a cooperative effort to build international solidarity and increase communication.

Hailing from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, and the USA, the activists who thus far comprise Gays Without Borders, represent a wide mix of political, organizational and social justice viewpoints. We may soon add our first member from Nepal!

No matter where we live or fall on the sexual orientation spectrum or respectfully differ on political questions, we agree on one important matter - more cooperation and coordinated is needed at the global level.

And to foster better communication among us, we have a Yahoo! group established.

I am proud to be part of the Gays Without Borders network and look forward to participating in dialogues and actions, everything from street demonstrations to letter-writing campaigns to posting messages on my blog, with a fabulous network of individuals dedicated to sharing knowledge and building bridges to glbt people everywhere.

Want to join? Email gayswithoutborders@yahoogroups.com.

Michael Petrelis, Central Voice SF Correspondent, has appeared on The O'Reilly Factor, CNN, ABC News, and National Public Radio. His words appear in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Raw Story, The Chicago Tribune, The New Republic, and Stars & Stripes.

"A moment I've been dreading. George (Bush Sr.) brought his ne're-do-well son around this morning and asked me to find the kid a job. Not the political one who lives in Florida. The one who hangs around here all the time looking shiftless. This so-called kid is already almost 40 and has never had a real job. Maybe I'll call Kinsley over at The New Republic and see if they'll hire him as a contributing editor or something. That looks like easy work."

Ronald Reagan in his recently published diaries, written May 17, 1986

Pennsylvania Environmental Council Releases Climate Change Roadmap

Nearly 40 recommendations for reducing climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions are included in the Climate Change Roadmap developed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council with the help of business, farm, energy generation and environmental stakeholders.

"Today it's time for a new Earth Day to tackle a problem that is truly global in scale – climate change. The debate is over, science has spoken," said Brian Hill, President & CEO of PEC. "Climate change will affect the crops we raise, how much rain we get, the kinds of forests and wildlife we have, the amount of energy we use and how we develop our land.

"Pennsylvania alone generates about 1 percent of the world's greenhouse gases, putting us in the same group with the top 25 emitting nations in the world," said Hill. "If we don't take action now, our projections show greenhouse gas emissions will increase by over 369 million metric tons by 2025."

Two years ago the Pennsylvania Environmental Council convened a group of stakeholders representing business, farm, energy generation and environmental interests to help create a Climate Change Roadmap for our state.

"The Roadmap lays out a state goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, makes available a series of tools to evaluate different emission reduction strategies and outlines nearly 40 specific steps we can take to achieve our reduction goals," explained Hill.

Specifically, the Roadmap:

•Sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2025, from 2000 levels;

•Recommends capping greenhouse gas emissions and joining a nationwide system that allows the trading of credits to promote least-cost solutions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

•Updates the state's 2003 inventory of greenhouse gas emissions so we have a good foundation to work from;

•Establishes a model, based on the inventory, that will help us look at the impact of alternatives for reducing greenhouse gases and their impact on achieving our goal; and

•Makes 38 specific recommendations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in several sectors: energy supply, transportation, residential, commercial and industrial buildings, agriculture, forestry, land use, on carbon sequestration and more.

"Recognizing the importance of coal to Pennsylvania, we think there is a unique opportunity for the Commonwealth to be a leader in carbon sequestration—taking greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and locking them into underground geologic formations where they cannot harm the environment," explained Hill. "We are now working with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the state's Geologic Survey to identify these opportunities throughout the state."

Senator Ted Erickson (R-Delaware) and Representative Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) have introduced bipartisan legislation to create a climate change plan for Pennsylvania.

Both Senator Erickson and Representative Vitali said the recommendations made in the Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania are an important step in the consideration of climate change legislation in the General Assembly.

The climate change legislation introduced by Representative Vitali and Senator Erickson includes House Bill 110 and Senate Bill 266. "We believe the Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania offers a series of practical, stakeholder-driven recommendations on how Pennsylvania can contribute real world solutions to this problem, while benefiting our state economically," said Hill.

Funding for the Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania was provided by the Heinz Endowments, the Energy Foundation and the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, with staff support provided by the Center for Climate Strategies, a subsidiary of Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

Information: www.pecpa.org; 717-230-8044.

54% Say Troops Home in 6 Months

As Congress considers President Bush's request for another $200 billion for Iraq, 54% of Americans want Bush to bring U.S. troops home within 6 months, according to a Democrats.com telephone poll of 618 adults conducted from September 6-9, 2007 by ICR.

An overwhelming majority (73%) of Americans want U.S. troops home in a year, the poll found.

This is the first poll that asked voters to choose between President Bush's funding request of $200 billion and other funding options.

The single largest group - 40% - want Bush to bring U.S. troops home within 6 months using funds Congress has already given him for Iraq, which now totals $450 billion. That is the position advocated by Democratic Presidential candidate Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

Another 14% would give President Bush $50 billion more to bring our troops home within 6 months.

Another 19% would give President Bush $200 billion more - the amount he requested - but would require a deadline to bring U.S. troops safely home within a year.

Just one in eight Americans (13%) support the Republican position of giving Bush a $200 billion check without any deadline.

We asked this question:

President Bush wants Congress to spend 200 billion dollars more in tax dollars next year to keep U.S. troops in Iraq with no plans to bring them home. Should Congress:

	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep
Give President Bush 200 billion dollars without conditions	12.8%	5.4%	10.4%	31%
Give President Bush 200 billion dollars but require him to bring all U.S. troops safely home within a year	19.1%	16.2%	19.9%	19.8%
Give President Bush 50 billion dollars to bring U.S. troops safely home within 6 Months	13.8%	13.9%	19.9%	9.6%
Require President Bush to use existing funds to bring U.S. troops safely home within 6 months	40.4%	56.4%	38.5%	22.5%
Don't know	10.8%	5.8%	9.7%	13.6%
Refused to answer	3.2%	2.3%	1.5%	3.3%

Among Republican voters, a solid 52% majority support a deadline of one year or less, while just 31% support a blank check for President Bush. Remarkably, 23% of Republicans support the Kucinich position of bringing troops home within 6 months using existing funds.

Democratic leaders have not presented their own funding plan, but said last week they were leaning towards providing Bush with his full request of $200 billion with no deadlines - the position supported by just 13% of Americans.

In July, leaders of the Progressive Caucus told President Bush they would only provide new funds to bring U.S. troops safely home by the end of his term in January 2009, which is now 16 months away. They did not specify how much funding they would support. 70 Members of Congress (including Republican Presidential candidate Ron Paul) signed this letter, and several more Members are expected to sign in the coming days.

Lesbian Seeks Unemployment After Move

A Pennsylvania woman who left a job and moved to Florida to be with her lesbian partner sought, and was refused, unemployment benefits. Joan Procito is taking her case to a state appeals court. Procito and her lawyers argue that she is entitled to the same treatment as a husband or wife who leaves a job because the spouse has moved.

So far, state officials have not agreed. They denied Procito unemployment compensation on the grounds that she did not have a "necessary and compelling reason" to quit, because she is not married to her partner.

"The decision was profoundly unfair and clearly erroneous," Procito's lawyer, Katie Eyer, said.

Procito's partner, Mary Jo Sheller, moved to Florida last year because her son, who is partly disabled, was about to begin college there. Procito argues that she had more than one compelling reason to move, that she and Sheller have both emotional and financial ties and that she has a step-mother relationship to Sheller's son.

Rodeo continued

it will be the first time International Gay Rodeo Finals are held east of the Mississippi.

The international event "brings both competitors and spectators from all over the country and Canada," Sanders says. Although attendance numbers vary year to year, the event is expected to draw between 2,000-4,000 visitors. "We're looking at an event that lasts three to four days."

The event is expected to fill at least 200 hotel rooms. "Your region of Pennsylvania is known for quality leather smiths,"Vrana says, confident attendees will visit local shops and see the workmanship available to them while visiting. The event sponsors are also interested in hosting a special trail ride through the Gettysburg Battlefields.

Strong Local Support

"The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce fully supports the LGRA's efforts to secure the IGRA national event for Harrisburg in 2010. The event has the potential to infuse nearly one million dollars into the local economy, as well the additional benefit of business opportunities for our glbt business community, "says Boggs, chamber president.

Boggs also notes that the gay and lesbian chamber is ready to assist with presenting the capital region as open to glbt-based events. "We've already had additional conversations with the Philadelphia chapter officers.

Philanthropic History

Gay Rodeo started in 1976 in Washoe County, NV as a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The International Gay Rodeo Association came along by 1985 under the leadership of Wayne Jakino.

Over the next six years, associations popped up all over the mid-west. In 1991, the Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association, based in Maryland, was the first association to bring gay rodeo east of the Mississippi, and in 1992 they held their first rodeo, Atlantic Stampede.

Liberty Gay Rodeo Association was founded in 2005 in Pennsylvania. "We're growing larger and stronger every day, with new members and new ideas," Vrana says. Their first rodeo, Liberty Stampede, is scheduled during Mothers Day weekend, May 9-12, 2008.

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The Hard Facts of Long-Term Care Insurance

By Ronald R. Wetzel
Financial Advisor
Citi Smith Barney
717-780-1789

Long-Term Care Insurance

Almost everyone knows the merits of life insurance—the umbrella for that rainy day. But few of us consider that perhaps a bigger need is for long-term care insurance—coverage for the unfortunate event that you or a loved one becomes incapacitated or disabled and unable to care for yourself. Indeed, 75 percent of Americans have made no preparations for long-term care.1 Well, it's time to face the hard facts about long-term care.

Fact one: Today, approximately 9 million Americans over the age 65 will need some form of long-term care, and that number will reach 12 million by 2020.2

Fact two: Don't let youth lull you into a false sense of security. Although the majority of people who require long-term care are over the age of 65, a substantial 40% are between the ages of 18 and 64.3

Fact three: The cost of long-term care can be expensive. According to the Genworth Financial 2007 Cost of Care Survey, the average daily rate of private nursing home care is $204. But that figure could go as high as $539 a day in Alaska to as low as $119 a day in Louisiana.4 Whatever the cost, will you be able to shoulder these expenses on your own?

However, it's never too late to evaluate your long-term care needs. Here are some factors you should consider.

Who is a suitable candidate for long-term care insurance? Single people with no one to look after them in case of a debilitating accident or illness should consider taking out a long-term care policy. Since they tend to live longer than men, women are also ideal candidates for this insurance coverage. Finally, anyone who wants to protect a bourgeoning nest egg should contemplate it. Long-term care costs can wreak havoc on your finances.

Is it costly? It varies, depending on the type of policy; how old you are when you apply and your health. Typically, most policies may range from $3,000 to about $7,000 a year.

Couples typically receive some type of discount.

What does it cover? Depending on the contract, a typical long-term insurance policy covers any nursing home or institutional setting—semi-skilled, adult daycare and managed care all the way up to condo-type healthcare homes. It also covers in-home healthcare, both by professionals and family members. Of course, the higher your premium, the more long-term care you will be able to afford.

What doesn't it cover? Long-term care insurance is not medical insurance. It does not cover hospital stays nor will it cover any medical payments. Long-term care policies also typically do not cover acupuncture, heavy-dose vitamin therapy.

How do you calculate the coverage you need?

•People who have good health records and whose ancestors have lived long lives may want to consider purchasing a policy before they retire.

•If your family has a history of early mortality, long-term care insurance should be something to contemplate when you're in your forties.

•Are you married? (Married people tend to live longer and thus are likely to wind up needing long-term care.)

•How much can you afford? Long-term care costs tend to be pricey and vary according to geographic regions.

Is the premium locked in? No. In some cases, premiums have risen as much as 40 percent. However, there is a modicum of protection from excessive rate hikes: Premiums cannot be increased without first receiving approval from your state insurance commissioner. It may seem like a lot on a pure percentage basis, but on a true dollar basis, it can still be a good value.

What kinds of options are involved? You can buy additional insurance meant to provide inflation protection, at a simple or compounded rate. There are shared-care options on some policies, where the balance of the policy is extended to a surviving spouse. And there are "limited-pay" policies, which are intended to insulate you from future rate increases. These are all matters to discuss with your financial advisor.

What triggers the insurance benefit? Think about what you do within the first 15 minutes of waking up: getting up out of bed; getting dressed; going to the bathroom; taking your medication; feeding yourself. Most policies cite the inability to perform two of six daily activities for at least a period of 90 days for the insurance benefit to kick in.

In a separate category, is cognitive impairment: Do you know who the president is, what day it is, who you are? Ultimately, a physician will make a ruling on the impairment. Some policies will allow your personal physician to make that call rather than someone hired by the insurance company.

Finally, how do you get started? Long-term care insurance should be looked at in the context of all your financial assets and liabilities. While there's plenty of information on the Internet about long-term care insurance and most of the insurance underwriters have educational sections on their websites, nothing beats talking to a qualified financial advisor to help you figure out what's suitable for you.

Ron Wetzel is a Financial Advisor with Smith Barney located in Harrisburg and may be reached at 717-780-1789.

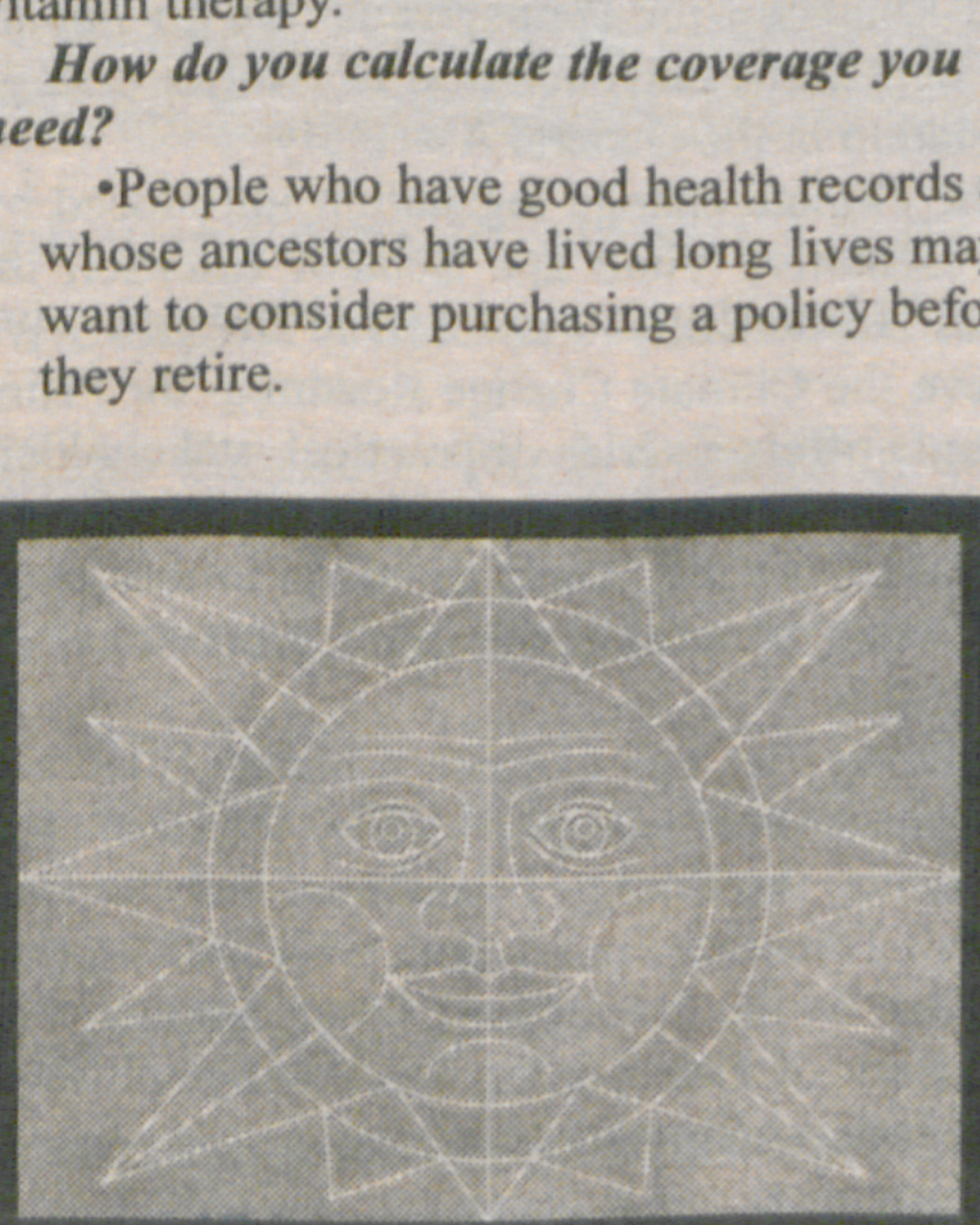
Long-term care insurance is medically underwritten. As such your actual premiums are not guaranteed and may vary from any initial quotation you receive. You should not cancel your current coverage until your new coverage is approved and in force. A change in contract may be subject to additional insurance fees as well as increased risks, and may also require a medical exam.

Smith Barney is a division of Citigroup Global Market Inc. Member SIPC.

1, 4 2007 National poll conducted by Public Opinion Strategies for Genworth Financial

2, 3, "Understanding Long-Term Care," National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care

Information, www.longtermcare.gov



Happy Solstice
Saturday 22nd
of December

Rainbow Market Report

Company	Symbol	Year High	Year Low	09/28/07 Close	Fortune 500
Aetna Inc	AET	54.96	38.22	54.27	×
American Airlines	AMR	41.00	20.28	22.29	×
Apple Computer Inc.	AAPL	155.00	72.60	153.47	×
AT&T Corp.	T	42.97	31.57	42.31	×
Avaya Inc.	AV	17.24	11.05	16.96	×
Borders Group Inc.	BGP	24.19	12.07	13.33	×
BP America	BP	75.25	58.62	69.35	
Daimler Chrysler Corp.	DAI	100.99	49.45	100.20	
Dell Inc.	DELL	29.61	21.61	27.60	×
Ford Motor Co.	F	9.70	6.85	8.49	×
Gap Inc.	GPS	21.17	15.20	18.44	×
General Mills Inc.	GIS	61.52	54.17	58.01	×
Intel Corp.	INTC	27.71	18.75	25.86	×
Intuit Inc.	INTU	35.98	26.14	30.30	
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	69.41	59.72	65.70	×
Kraft Foods Inc.	KFT	37.19	29.95	34.51	
MetLife	MET	70.27	56.08	69.73	×
Microsoft Corp.	MSFT	31.84	26.60	29.46	×
Molson Coors Brewing Co	TAP	101.54	64.25	99.67	×
New York Times Co.	NYT	26.90	19.12	19.76	
Owens Corning	OC	36.47	22.74	25.05	×
PepsiCo Inc.	PEP	73.29	61.16	73.26	×
Pfizer Inc.	PFE	28.60	23.14	24.43	×
Sears, Roebuck & Co.	SHLD	195.18	123.39	127.20	×
S. California Edison	EIX	60.26	41.69	55.45	
Sprint Corp.	S	23.42	16.76	19.00	×
The Charles Schwab Corp.	SCHW	23.02	16.34	21.60	×
Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc.	TM	137.97	109.70	116.86	
Viacom Inc.	VIA	45.03	36.58	38.95	×
Walgreens Co.	WAG	49.10	39.91	47.24	×
Washington Mutual Inc.	WM	46.38	31.27	35.31	×
Wells Fargo & Co.	WFC	37.99	32.67	35.62	×

Activist Doctors' Group Changes Name

The Politically Active Physicians Association announced that it has officially changed its name to The Patients And Physicians Alliance (P.A.P.A.). The organization was founded in response to the "doctor drain" crisis that has left many Americans without adequate access to health care delivery services as thousands of physicians have been forced out of work due to unaffordable medical liability insurance costs.

Medical liability insurance costs have skyrocketed exponentially across the US due to rampant medical liability lawsuit abuse—a common practice among personal injury lawyers.

"The name change was made to reflect the growing alliance between patients and physicians in the fight for medical liability lawsuit abuse reform," said P.A.P.A. Founding Member James Tayoun, Jr., D.O.

"Patients are concerned about the havoc personal injury lawyers have wreaked upon their ability to access medical care. Because of rampant lawsuit abuse, numerous maternity and trauma units have closed. Erosion of care due to lawsuit abuse has resulted in otherwise preventable deaths in areas such as Chester County, Pennsylvania where emergency neurosurgeons no longer practice. Emergency rooms are overloaded and patients are forced to spend more and more time in waiting rooms and less time with their doctors because medical practices are unable to retain sufficient numbers of physicians."

P.A.P.A. is also concerned about the impact lawsuit abuse has had on health insurance.

"Lawsuit abuse has driven up the costs of medical liability insurance and triggered skyrocketing health care costs as physicians are forced to practice defensive medicine," said Tayoun. "Rampant medical liability lawsuit abuse is a major factor contributing to many Americans being unable to obtain any health insurance coverage at all."

Tayoun said the growing alliance between patients and physicians will ultimately bring about sensible medical liability lawsuit abuse reforms such as those enacted in Texas and California. Those reforms include limits on non-economic damages awarded in medical liability jury awards and limits on attorney contingency fees.

P.A.P.A. is aggressively seeking patients who have been harmed by lack of access to health care delivery services, so those stories can be brought to light.

"As patients who have been harmed by eroding medical care caused by lawsuit abuse come forward with their stories, elected officials will return to the practice of putting patients first and enact sensible tort reforms," said Tayoun.

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CINEMA CENTER

American Gangster

Director: Ridley Scott
Starring: Denzel Washington, Russel Crow
Rated: R
Release Date: November 2, 2007

Frank Lucas (Washington) used to get by pretty much unnoticed. He was just the driver of one of the city's most notorious crime bosses. After his boss dies, Frank decides now would be the time to take over, and using the opening of power, creates his own empire. Richie Roberts (Crowe) is in the same boat with Frank, except on another side of the law. He is an outcast cop who is so low on the chain and close to the streets that he can feel a change in control of the drug underworld. Richie decides to take matters into his own hands and the lives of these two men clash in a confrontation where only one can survive.

I Am Legend

Director: Francis Lawrence
Starring: Will Smith
Rated: n/a
Release Date: December 14, 2007

When a terrible, unstoppable, and horribly untreatable virus attacks mankind, scientist Robert Neville is the only human left alive. Struggling to survive in the ruins of New York City, Robert sends out daily radio messages hoping to find any other survivors. After three years, Robert must find a way to reverse the effects of the virus by using his own immune blood. But, victims of the plaque are constantly watching his every move waiting for him to make a mistake.

Margot at the Wedding

Director: Noah Baumbach
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Jack Black
Rated: R
Release Date: November 16, 2007

When Margot Zeller (Kidman) decides to take off on a surprise journey to her estranged sister's wedding, disaster is in the future. Margot is a brilliant, sharp-tongued, chaos creator who writes short stories for a living. With her son Claude along for the ride, as soon as Margot meets her sister's fiancée, Malcolm (Black) she tries to break the couple apart. This is a story that shows no matter how strange your family is, you can at least always count on them.

August Rush

Director: Kirsten Sheridan
Starring: Robin Williams, Freddie Highmore
Rated: PG
Release Date: November 21, 2007

When a charismatic Irish guitarist and a shy young cellist meet one night and have a magical night above New York's Washington Square, they fall deep in love. But, they are soon forced apart, leaving a baby, August Rush (Highmore), in the wake of their passion. August grows up in an orphanage and is now performing on the streets of New York with amazing musical ability. When he meets a kindly stranger (Williams) August uses his music to become reunited with the parents that left him at birth.

Grace is Gone

Director: Bobby and Peter Farrelly
Starring: John Cusack
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: December 7, 2007

When devoted father and military husband Stanley Phillips hears the devastating news that his wife has lost her life serving overseas in Iraq, his life changes forever. Already awkward with his two daughters, Stanley cannot think of a way to tell them the tragic news. In hopes of finding the perfect moment for it, he takes his family on a road trip to a famous theme park. Along the way, they grow closer as a family and Stanley dreads telling them the inevitable news that will shatter their innocent worlds.

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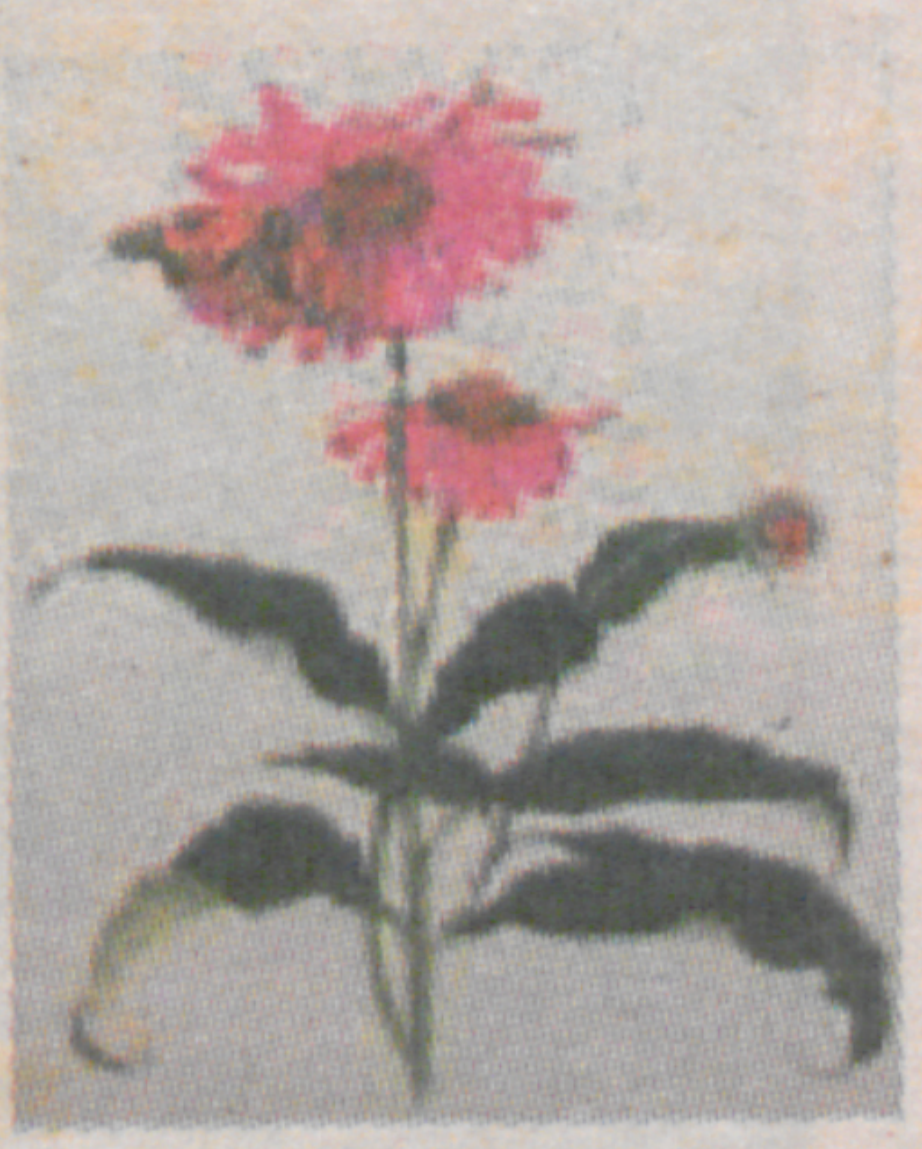

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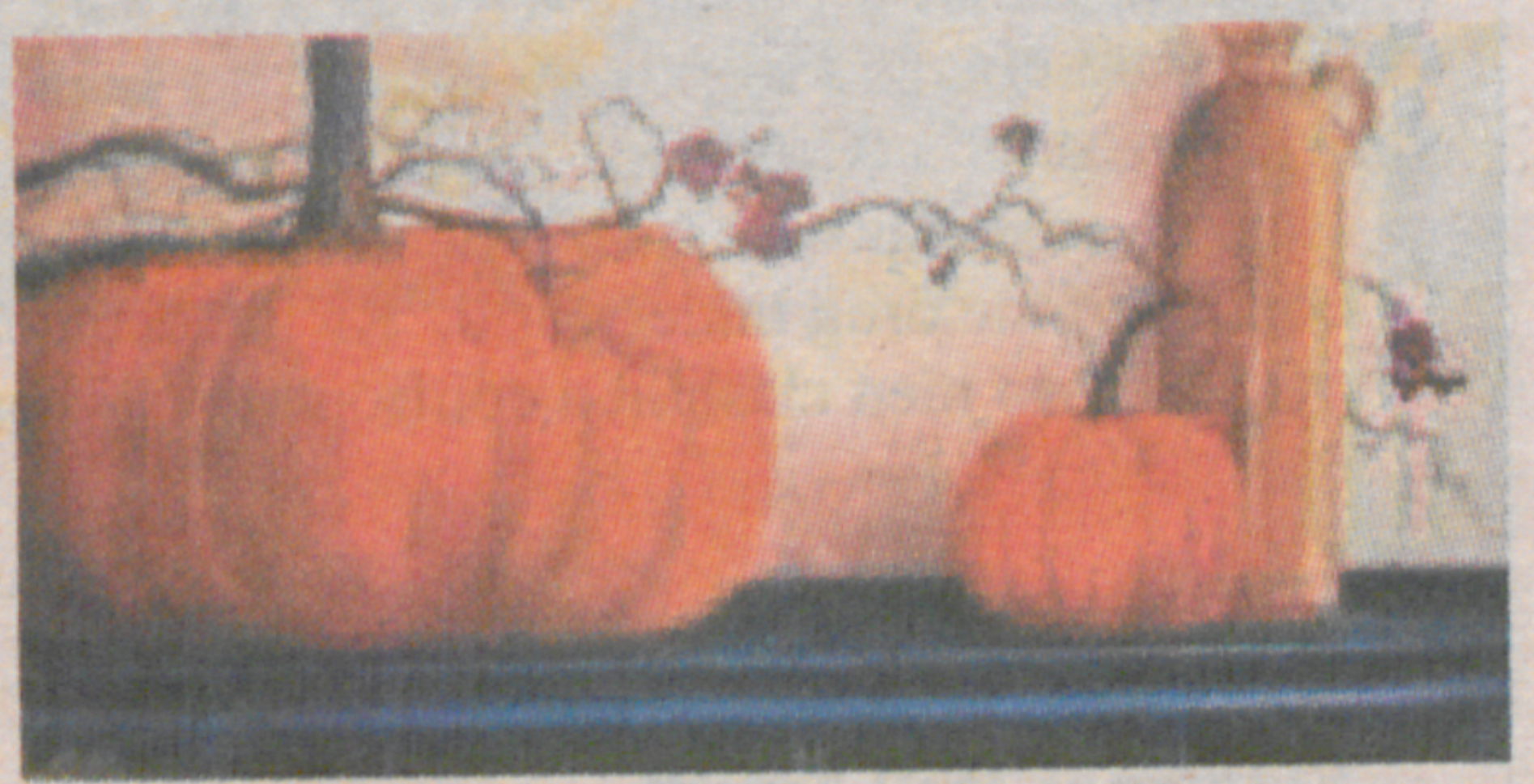
Kim Henson - Kim is inspired by the intricate beauty of nature. She strives to render her subjects realistically and poignantly in a variety of media, including watercolor, pen and ink, acrylic, and oil. Kim grew up in the Midwest, where her father was an accomplished artist, and where she was trained as a molecular biologist. A professional artist for the past several years, Kim has illustrated a children's book about the sea creatures of coastal Maine, From Amazing American Eels to Zillions of Zooplankton, and a second book, Wisdom from the Gardens, featuring seasonal images that bind us to nature and give inspiration.



Nancy Stamm's Galleria - 201 N. Hanover St. - 717-240-0551

Nancy Stamm - Skillful technique and beautifully painted images characterize Nancy's work. Her imaginative compositions continue to delight the public over the years. You recognize familiar objects - fruit, shells, personal objects, animals and country side, but the lighting and context make the images special. When you ask Nancy about her art, she is eager to tell you she feels so at peace with the accomplishments of her endeavors and is always eager to begin another painting. Nancy can be quoted as saying, "The most difficult thing to know in painting is what not to paint."

Garden Gallery - 10 N. Hanover St. - 717-249-1721

Susie Stamm Andrews - My goal has always been to express that which is inside of me. The inspiration for the work that I produce can come from any subject, which I happen upon. I am constantly awed, by the beauty of nature and its seemingly endless variety. Since I love humor, satire and outrageous subjects, some of my works have grown to include whimsical creations expressed as masks, fish, corals, dragons, fairies, mermaids, and pirates. I treasure the holidays, so I also do pumpkins, ghosts & witches, Santa's, and Easter Bunnies.

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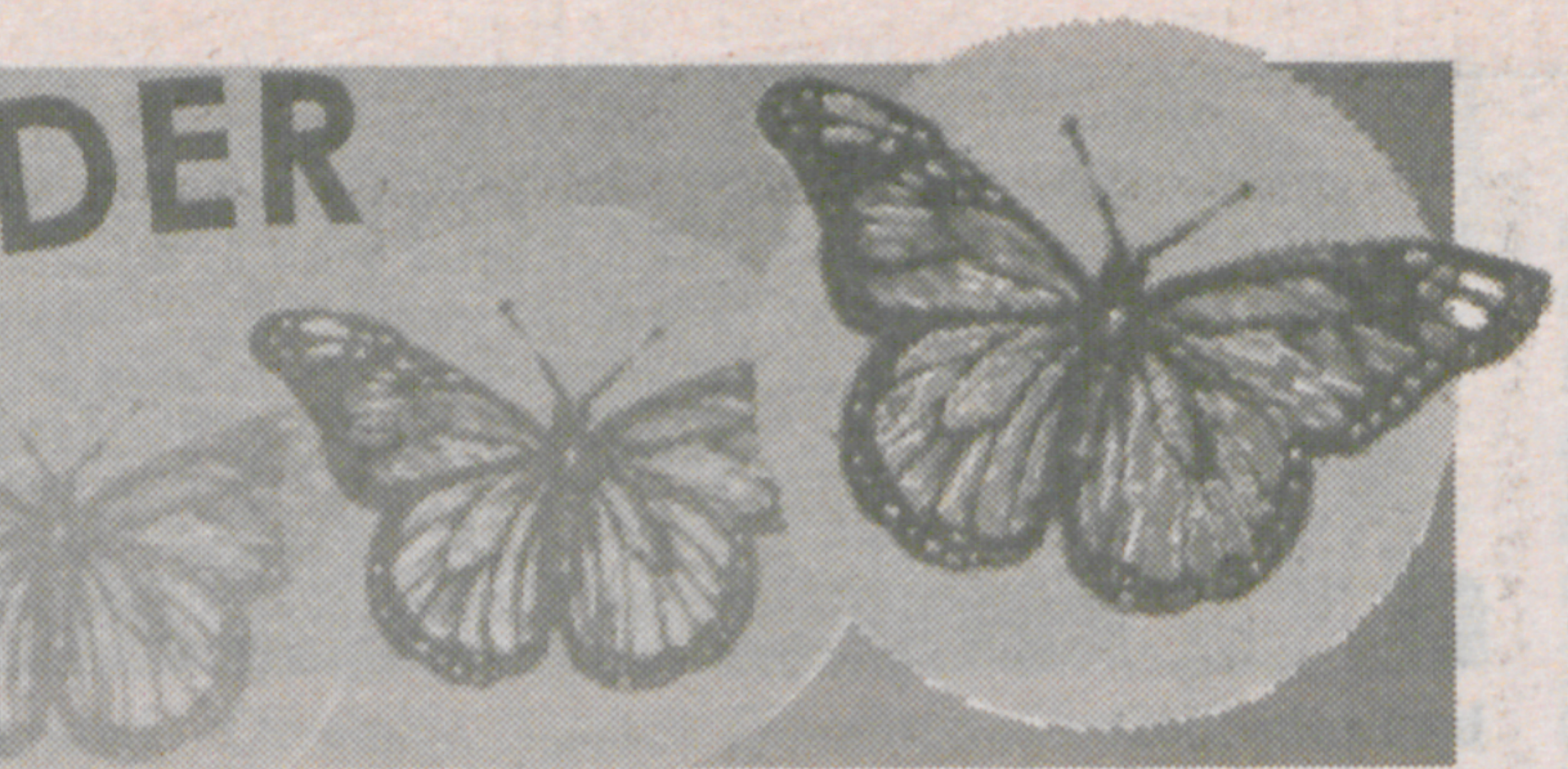

By Kristen Richards

Removal of Trans-sexuality from DSM-IV

Gender identity issues have long been regarded in the psychiatric community as a mental disorder, otherwise known as Gender Identity Disorder (GID). In recent years, clinicians working with the transgender community no longer consider transexuality a pathology. Rather, they view the situation as "a naturally occurring variation in men and women."

As a result, the push to remove transsexualism as a mental disorder listed in the the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or DSM-IV is gaining traction. Removal is gaining support despite nonsensical claims from some faith-based, right wing nuts who claim that correcting this birth defect surgically and hormonally is a form of mutilation, demanding transgender people to enter into extensive long-term psychiatric care and denying transexuality exists.

Gender-identity disorder (GID) is a condition in which a person feels persistent discomfort with his or her biological sex. The DSM-IV manual is the tool used by mental health professionals worldwide to foster reliable research, diagnosis, appropriate protocol and patient care. The manual states, "each psychiatric disorder with its corresponding diagnostic code is accompanied by a set of diagnostic criteria and descriptive details including associated features, prevalence, familial patterns, age, culture, gender-specific features, and differential diagnosis."

Dr. Marci Bowers, the country's leading genital reassignment surgeon recently addressed removing GID from DSM with the American Psychiatry Association (APA). She said in her remarks: "In an ideal world, we would not need the psychological community and would have no need for inclusion of GID within the DSM. GID is the DSM diagnosis that currently describes the dysphoria that transgender people feel by not having their gender expression able to match their gender identity. The fact is, while others disagree, at this time, transgender individuals continue to need a diagnostic category somewhere, in order to allow treatment.

Bowers also said, "Unlike homosexuality, (whose DSM diagnosis was removed in 1980) which needs no medical prescribing in order to live, transsexuals continue to need diagnosis in order to pursue hormonal and surgical treatment. However, that dependency puts transgender males and females at substantial risk for manipulation and opportunism on the part of psychological providers, both in their assessments, their fee structures and their treatment protocols. It calls for fluidity, not rigidity for the sake of both providers (who remain at risk when obstruction is offered) and for clients (who are at risk for depression and impoverishment as a result of non-treatment).

Through education the world is improving for transgender persons. Non-discrimination laws are passing and have been endorsed by current Democratic presidential candidates. These legislative advances will help enormously but will not help much in reality for those who are still viewed as psychologically infirm because of psychological perceptions that have not kept pace with social advance and are buoyed by preconceived agendas of the psychological right wing.

The fact is, so long as transsexualism and gender dysphoria are viewed as anything but biological in origin, human suffering on the part of the transgender community, will persist. I believe were politics removed from the equation that a biological basis for transgender behavior would and could be established by a thorough review of available medical evidence. Until such research is designed, employed and accepted, that viewpoint will still generate controversy, sadly.

The fact is gender transition is arguably the most challenging path available in the human journey. Those undergoing transition will continue to need the psychological community, at least for the foreseeable future, but not obligatorily. Those providers of psychological care, in turn, need to respect that union with the transgender clients as an equal and dynamic relationship.

The transgender calling, rather than being a pathetic pathologic condition is valuable for its many insights into humanity and should be respected as such, as it has been in previous cultures historically. Then again, gender transition remains a minefield whose dangers are not always evident to people who may be considering the journey.

On a note of optimism, the rise of transgender professionals, those who have themselves lived through transition, understand the nuances of life on both sides. These individuals, those who have weathered employment discrimination, brutal child custody laws, hatred and violence, offer the clearest voice as to where we ought to be going as professionals. I hope only that the psychological community will finally set aside psychological preconceptions and perceptions of mental infirmary on the part of transgender persons. Truly listen to those whose lives hang in the balance of the thoughts and actions of the psychological community.

PA Included

AFL-CIO to Spend $200 Million on 2008 Election

The AFL-CIO announced it will spend $200 million on 2008 elections, with the nation's largest labor federation devoting a record $53 million exclusively to grass-roots mobilization.

The group said it would deploy more than 200,000 volunteers leading up to the election, with special focus on battleground states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin.

"The AFL-CIO is sending a powerful message that we are going to change the course of our country in 2008 by electing a president and candidates at all levels who are committed to restoring the promise of America to working people," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said.

AFL-CIO leaders are looking to put a Democrat in the White House and help that party pick up as many as six seats in the Senate and five in the House. Democrats took control of Congress in the 2006 elections. "We're going for the trifecta: the House, the Senate and the White House," said Gerald McEntee, the AFL-CIO's political committee chair and president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union.

The AFL-CIO and its unions spent an estimated $150 million during the 2004 presidential elections, but Democrats came up short in the White House and their bid for congressional control.

Lesbian Mom Changes Amazon.com Contest Rules

By Bryan Ochalla

When Dana Rudolph, publisher of Mombian.com, a lifestyle website for lesbian moms, was first made aware of Amazon.com's "Tuition and Textbooks Sweepstakes," which offers contestants a grand prize of one year of free tuition (up to $25,000), she didn't think much of it.

"Neither my partner nor I is in college (we already have way too many years of that between us), nor is our four-year-old son," Rudolph said in a message posted to the site yesterday.

Upon further inspection, however, Rudolph noticed the following wording: "If you're not a student—but you have a family member who is—you may enter on his/her behalf."

"After reading this, I looked at the [contest's] official rules, which state, 'For the purposes of the Grand Prize, the winner's immediate family includes his or her spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and siblings,'" Rudolph wrote.

Seeking clarification, Rudolph quickly sent off a "nicely worded letter" to Amazon.com's customer service department asking whether same-sex partners could be considered "immediate family" as well.

After receiving a confusing response from a low-level representative, Rudolph sent a more direct message to the Seattle-based retailer, asking if the company intentionally was "discriminating against same-sex couples by not allowing us the opportunity to enter for the grand prize on behalf of our partners/spouses."

This time she garnered a response from someone farther up the Amazon.com food chain. "As you have correctly noted, the rules related to this sweepstakes do not specifically identify domestic partners as immediate family members," replied Jennifer Hanner, Amazon.com's executive customer relations.

"In the event a winner of this sweepstakes wishes to apply the prize to his or her domestic partner—whether same-sex or opposite-sex—Amazon.com will apply an expanded definition of 'immediate family' to permit the prize to be applied to domestic partners as long as the couple is able to provide proof of the relationship," she added before finishing with, "Thank you for bringing this to our attention."

That seemed to appease Rudolph, who wrote, "I'm guessing most people will enter the contest on their own behalf, with some parents entering for their children. Still, for those who do want to enter on behalf of a partner in college, it's nice to know you can do so just like an opposite-sex spouse.

"A small victory," she added, "but hey, I'll take it."

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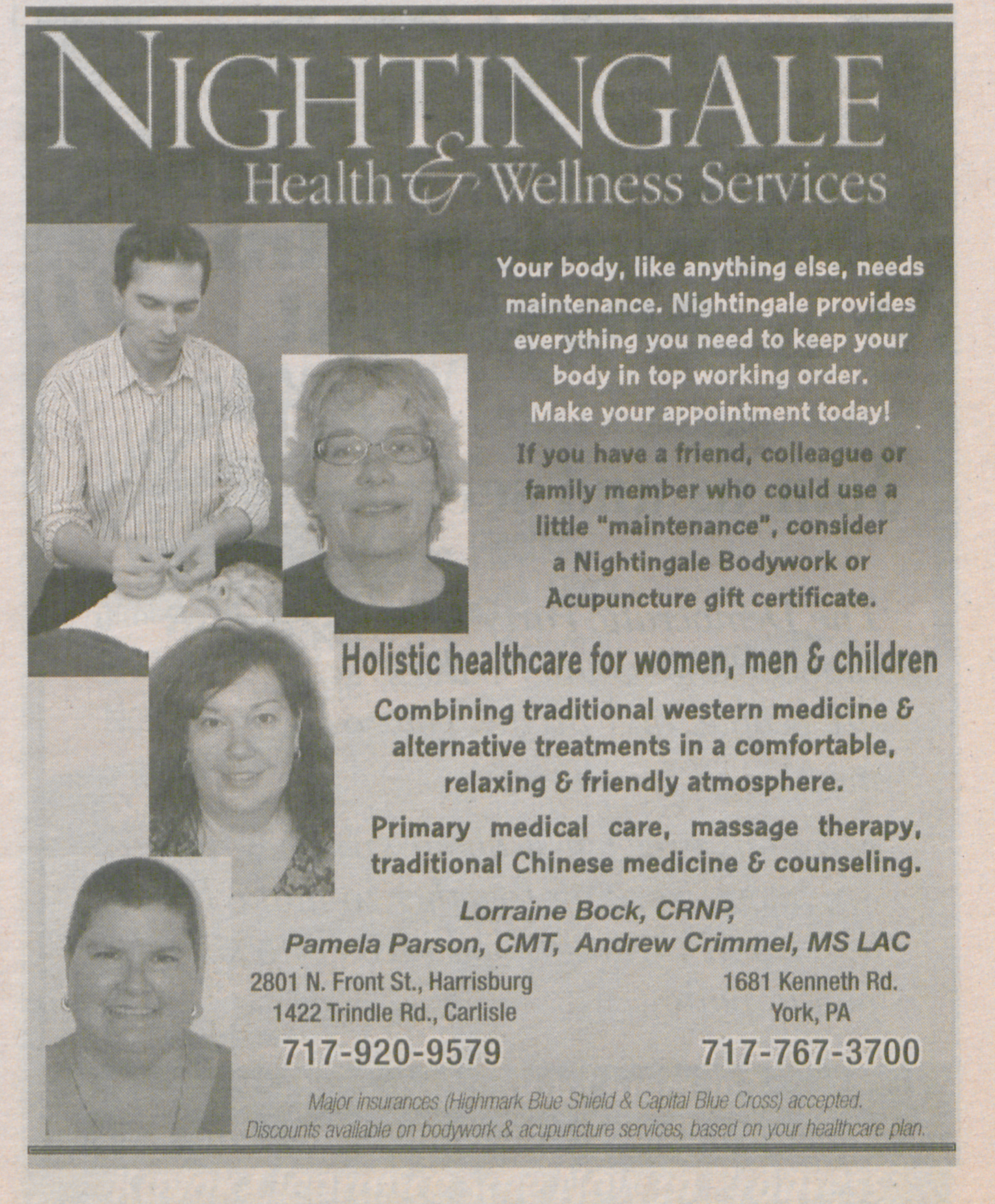
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New York Just Says No to Abstinence Funding

New York's health commissioner announced the state is rejecting federal abstinence-only education funding, joining at least 10 other states that have done so. Abstinence-only sex education has done little to prevent teen pregnancies in New York, part of the reason for its support being cut, said Commissioner Dr. Richard F. Daines.

"The Bush administration's abstinence-only program is an example of a failed national health care policy directive," Daines wrote in a statement on the state health commissioner's Web site. The policy is "based on ideology rather than on sound scientific-based evidence that must be the cornerstone of good public health care policy."

Existing state sex education programs incorporate abstinence messages, and the state should also be able to teach the use of condoms, said Daines. He said he objected to the federal abstinence-only policy's "narrow ideological view, which is not the direction we want to go in for sexual health."

Since 1998, New York has received $3.5 million a year for abstinence-only education, and the state had spent an additional $2.6 million annually on it over the past decade. That money will now be used for other sex education programming, said Daines.

The abstinence-only sex education program has "seen a lot of attacks," said Leslee Unruh, president of the National Abstinence Clearinghouse.

According to a report by the New York Civil Liberties Union, also announced Thursday, roughly half the abstinence-only funding recipients in New York were faith-based organizations whose programs received little to no state oversight. Some $6 million in federal abstinence-only money goes directly to community groups in New York, according to the report.

Sex education is not required in New York; individual districts decide whether to teach sex education and determine the curriculum's scope.

Equality Hearings - **Stacey Sobel**, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania (from left), and **Larry Frankel**, PA ACLU, join state **Reps. Mike O'Brien, Babette Josephs and Dan Frankel** at a Pittsburgh public hearing for pending legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender expression or identity. A second hearing was held in Erie. If passed, House Bill 1400 would prohibit glbt discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations.

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Lesbian Notions: Charting Our Future?

by Libby Post

Maybe it's my age - 50 is just around the corner (oy!). Maybe it's because I've been in a relationship since I was 18 (mind you, that means serial monogamy with four different women). Maybe it's because I spend a lot of time on the Web at work.

Whatever the reason, I've not spent too much time on any social networking site - lesbian, gay, or straight.

Well, a recent study shows I'm alone! According to a January 2007 Harris Interactive/Witeck-Combs poll, gays, lesbians, and bisexuals use social networking sites more than straight people do. You can find us at MySpace 33 percent of the time we're online, and at Facebook or Friendster 11 percent.

But these aren't sites just for us, and, as we all know, we like to go to places just for us, both in real time and in virtual worlds. At least four social networking sites specifically catering to the LGBT community launched this year - Glee, Olivia.com/connect, Socialbutter, and OurChart. Then there are these sites specifically for gay men (the names say it all) - Bigjock, Manjam, and Lovetastic.

Now for us dykes who watch _The L Word_, we know where OurChart.com comes from. In the show's first season, the engaging, alt-radio DJ and sometimes over-the-top lover of whomever she's with, Alice, started an online chart to track the "relationships" - from one-night stands to the U-Haul on the second dates - of herself and her circle of friends and acquaintances. Over the past four seasons, it has been an on-again/off-again plot line, exploding - or perhaps I should say crashing - in season four, because of the exploits of lesbian sexual predator Poppy.

Anyway, some of the girls in front and in back of the camera at _The L Word_ decided to bring the chart into our lives 24/7 by launching OurChart.com, a social networking site just for us. According to a description on the site, "us" includes "lesbians, dykes, queer girls, gay women, high femmes, butches, drag kings, bois, transwomen, and transmen - however we define ourselves. On OurChart, you can connect yourself via friendships and relationships to the wide world encompassing all these people and more."

L Word executive producer Ilene Chaiken is OurChart's CEO, and her partners in the venture are Jennifer Beals, who plays Bette, Kate Moennig, who plays Shane, and, not surprisingly, Leisha Hailey, who portrays the concept's originator, Alice.

Recently, I had the chance to chat with Lisa Parrish, whose blog, "The Hookup," appears daily on the site. She explained how it all works.

You sign up and create your own profile, and then your own chart by adding friends. The chart is, of course, digitally created with your photo at the center, which is then connected visually and virtually with photos of your friends.

"I love it," said Parrish. "It's really fun to be part of a community. I do my blog three times a day. The first thing I do after it goes live overnight is...check to see what people are saying... OurChart is a fun way of giving people a chance to meet each other, mingle, and talk about things they have in common."

Parrish told me a heartwarming story about a woman in the States who wrote in to OurChart about her grandmother. It seems that Grandma lived in Germany, and the writer had lost touch. She asked if it was possible for anyone in the area to check up on her grandmother's whereabouts. Someone did. It wasn't a happy ending - Grandma had died several years before, but at least the woman had some closure.

OurChart is also bringing some original Web-based programming to a computer screen near you. It has recently launched a show called Girl Trash, which, according to Parrish, is a "lesbian pulp-fiction-style noir thriller." It is a series of short Web-isodes of an L.A. girl gang careening through the seedier side of the city.

Not necessarily my cinematic - albeit on a very small screen - choice, but it is written and directed by veteran L Word and movie director Angela Robinson. She also brought us D.E.B.S. and Herbie: Fully Loaded.

Like it or not, Girl Trash shows us what is so great about the Web - the ability to create, be seen and scrutinized, and create again.

But getting back to OurChart's chart, Parrish told me, "One of the key differences about OurChart is that it's about friends, networking, colleagues...not about people who slept together."

Damn! But don't despair. Parrish explained they're adding a feature called "Friends+" that can chart anything from a fling to being involved for 10 years to being lifelong partners.

"It's really important to point out that friends won't be able to be added to "Friends+" without the individual's permission," said Parrish. "You couldn't say you slept with Leisha Hailey without her permission."

Does Alice ask permission?

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

St. Paul's UC of Christ Is Open and Affirming

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No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you're welcome at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. The church is an open and affirming congregation.

During November and December, St. Paul's celebrates many special events. All Saints is celebrated on Nov. 14 at both services with Holy Communion. Nov. 18 is Stewardship Sunday with worship service at 10:30 am. Three.Twelve (3.12) provides music, celebrating the culmination of the Stewardship Campaign. At 5:30 p.m. is a family style Thanksgiving Dinner. All members, friends and guests are invited.

The first three Sundays in Advent, Dec. 2, Dec. 9 and Dec.16 worship is 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Christian Education for children and adults is 9:15 a.m. Family Advent Celebration Dec. 2 is in Fellowship Hall and begins after worship with a light lunch. The fourth Sunday in Advent, Dec.23 the music department presents a Christmas program with the Chancel, Youth and Chorister Choirs and the new Chime Choir. Only one worship service will be held at 9:30 a.m.

St. Paul's celebrates the birth of the Christ with Christmas Eve services on Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m.

International News continued

September 9 issue provided details so precise - physical descriptions, residences, places of employment, and the kind of cars they drive - that those targeted, almost all from the capital city of Kampala or it environs, were easily identifiable to their neighbors and co-workers. The newspaper's list includes doctors, businessmen, clerics, broadcasters, lawyers, bankers, actors, musicians, and non-profit group staffers. "This article fingers those named for physical attack," Cary Alan Johnson, senior Africa specialist for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), told Gay City News. Johnson declared, "There is a comprehensive campaign being waged against LGBT rights in Uganda.

Lithuania May Ban "Propagation of Homosexuality"

A poll of members of the Lithuanian parliament revealed that over half of them agree that homosexuality is a perversion.

A new law currently before the Lithuanian parliament could be amended to ban the "promotion" of gay, lesbian or bisexual relationships to children. The Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effects of Public Information Bill will be debated by MPs later this autumn and its supporters argue that the "propagation" amendment does not contradict anti-discrimination laws.

Parliamentarians claim that the still unclear definition of "propagation" of relationships outside of heterosexual marriage has "negative consequences for the physical, mental and, first and foremost, moral development of minors." Margarita Jankauskaite, project manager for the Centre of Equality Advancement and ambassador for the European Commission Campaign "For Diversity, Against Discrimination," claims that the proposed amendment is contradictory to the legislation and the values of the European Union. She also questioned what it means to distort family values; according to statistics, 56% of the families in Lithuania falls apart, and one third of children are being born into unmarried families. In February a poll of members of the Lithuanian parliament revealed that over half of them agree that homosexuality is a perversion. Homosexual sex was legalized in Lithuania in 1993. The World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of diseases in 1990. A poll last December found that only 17% of Lithuanians support gay marriage. Lithuania joined the EU in 2004. That year the age of consent for homosexual sex was lowered from 18 to 14 to bring it in line with the age of consent for heterosexual sex.

London Ready for Gay Mayor

A former senior police officer who wants to be Mayor of London has said that he does not think his sexuality will be an issue with the voters. Brian Paddick was the UK's most senior out gay policeman until his retirement as Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in May this year. He is one of three candidates for the Liberal Democrat nomination for Mayor of London. He said today that he did not regard being an openly gay man as an electoral disadvantage with Londoners.

"I think the majority are quite relaxed about an individual's sexuality," he told the *Evening Standard*. "Clearly there are a lot of people who for moral reasons or some other reason find homosexuality difficult to deal with. But from my experience if you are good at your job and they trust you, sexuality becomes a non-issue. If you are useless and cannot be trusted it becomes an issue. I will be completely open about who I am. If we have to go over the past, we go over the past. Mr Paddick, 49, took part in this year's Pride London celebrations and has been mulling a career in politics for some time. The next election for Mayor of London will be held in May 2008.

pinknews.co.uk

Mr Paddick called for a public enquiry into the terrorist attacks on London in July 2005, something the government insists is unnecessary.

Kuwait Gay Equality Group Forms

The march for international equality for glbt citizens across our planet took a mighty big step forward in a small piece of the Middle East. Gays in the constitutional monarchy of Kuwait are petitioning their government for approval of an advocacy organization permit, according to Arab news sources.

The problems faced by gays in Kuwait were cited in the most recent annual human rights report from the US State Department, published in March 2007:

IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
Kuwait

There was discrimination against homosexuals in societal attitudes and legal issues. In February 2005 police charged a group of 28 alleged homosexuals with creating a public disturbance after they met outside a fast-food restaurant. On October 27, police raided a party where homosexuals were allegedly celebrating a wedding. On December 10, the legislative committee of the National Assembly unanimously approved a law to impose a fine of $3,450 (1,000 dinars) and/or one year's imprisonment for those imitating the opposite sex.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation launched MatthewsPlace.com October 12, the ninth anniversary of Matthew Shepard's passing. "It is a safe online place full of critical resources and information, a place where glbtq youth can see themselves reflected in our society, feel affirmation, and gain insights to help them lead healthy, productive, hate-free lives," said **Judy Shepard**, shown here in April 2004 with Central Voice publisher **Frank Pizzoli** when she spoke at York's Strand Capital Performing Arts Center.

Transgender Education Association of Central PA

Trans-Central

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Nov 3rd - Election of Officers for 2008 & Mary Kay Demonstration
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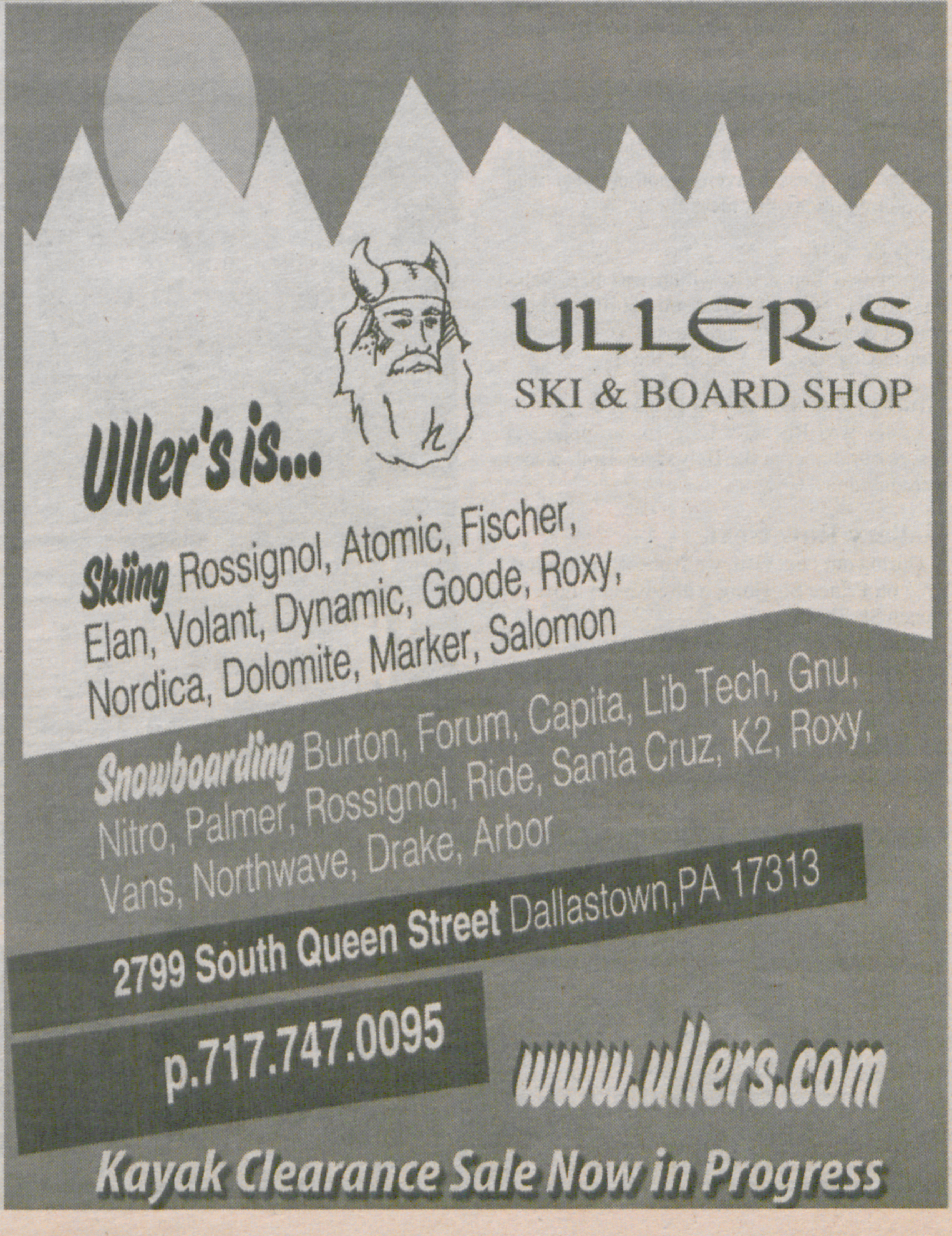
Email: TransCentralPA@yahoogroups.com www.transcentralpa.org.
Managing Director: Jeanine Ruhsam – waterfilly@yahoo.com
Outreach Director: Kristen Richards – ock1127@aol.com



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Kayak Clearance Sale Now in Progress

The Eclectic Shopper Visits Lancaster

By Beth Peters

As collectors of unique, eclectic things, my partner and I took my friend's advice and recently made the short trek from Harrisburg to Lancaster City's First Friday festivities. She always has great tips and recommendations.

A New Lancaster?

Lancaster city is certainly not what I remembered from 15 years ago. It's become central Pennsylvania's mecca for art galleries, antiques and boutiques, jewelry, vintage/retro shops and purveyors of unique treasures you will not find anywhere else. Best of all, everything is tucked neatly into a few blocks.

Mommalicious

Our night began on the 300 block of North Queen St. Parking was easy and plentiful. The streets were bustling with people and we could feel the energy in the air. The first stop was Mommalicious, a quirky little vintage clothing store where I bought the coolest dress.

Remember This

The next visit was Remember This, a fine gift and collectibles shop. Two for two thus far as I found some nice house furnishings.

Rev Chi's Antiques

Next was Rev Chi's Antiques. The name says it all. A must visit again for my partner. JA Sharp, the jeweler my friend recommended was another great find. I found the most unique ring which is now on my holiday gift-list.

Ziggy's Magic Shop

Ziggy's Magic Shop was our next stop to watch some awesome magic tricks. Close by was Lunar Childs where we bought some soothing organic tea.

Art & Glassworks

Not finished, we crossed the street to enjoy the other side of Queen St. Art & Glassworks was stained glass heaven. Another must visit including holiday gift ideas for us.

Zap & Co

Next was Zap & Co which was like walking into a time warp. Great retro stuff. We both bought some funky sunglasses (our friends keep asking where we bought them).

Rachel's Café & Belvedere

Lastly was Rachel's Café for an appetizer before our dinner at the Belvedere. Both places were fabulous!

Gallery Row Next

During our next visit, we'll check out Gallery Row on Prince St. along with visits to those N. Queen St. Shops.

Lancaster's First Friday was a special night and getaway. The shop owners were all so friendly. There were so many lovely shops, not enough time and never enough money. Lancaster First Friday is held monthly, all year round. www.uptownlancaster.com

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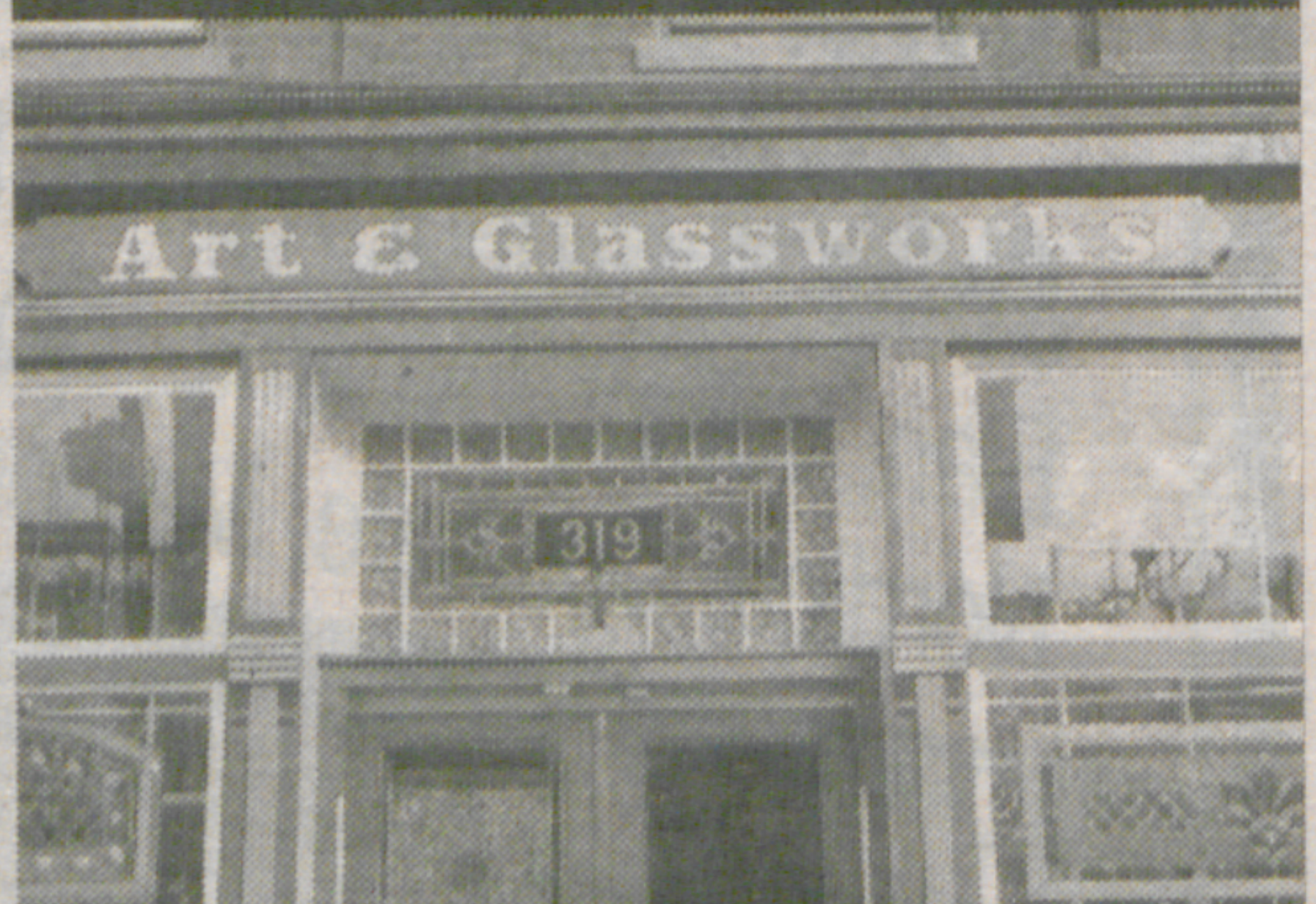

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Suzanne Westenhoefer Nov. 18

Ephrata Performing Arts Center (EPAC) presents a night of comedy with Lancaster County's own Suzanne Westenhoefer, Nov. 18, 8 PM. There's a Wine & Cheese Reception with Westenhoefer at 6:30-7:30 PM.

Reception & Performance is $35. Performance Only is $25. Doors open at 7:30 PM for the performance. All seats reserved. Adults only. Tickets online: www.EphrataPerformingArtsCenter.com Call: 717.733.7966 ext. 300 or 224

Westenhoefer is fearless, bold, sparkly, hilarious. That's Suzanne Westenhoefer in a nutshell. She's made a career out of telling the truth. And, the truth is, life is funny (and no one is off limits). From her sister's obsession with "Passion of the Christ" to her girlfriend's Herculean thighs, Suzanne tells stories that leave audiences in stitches.

Notable television appearances include "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher," "Evening at the Improv," "Caroline's Comedy Hour," "Arli$$" and more. Her live comedy special "A Night at the Village" runs on LOGO and Bravo. She frequently appears as a commentator on E!, VH1 and Country Music Television. Her life in comedy was chronicled in the documentary "Laughing Matters" (2004).

ja sharp Custom Jeweler Moves

It was time for Jude and Andrea to have breathing space in the studio as well as well as more room for customers, and an expanded showroom inventory. "We found the ideal spot, just 48 steps down the street at 322 N. Queen St," Jude Sharp says. The well-known shop now has 500 more square feet in a beautifully renovated space. The space was developed by Ecklin Development. The historic building was the first home of Lancaster General Hospital.

Hours: Tues-Fri - 10-5:30 PM and Sat. 10-4 PM. Stop by or call 717-295-9661; www.jasharp.com

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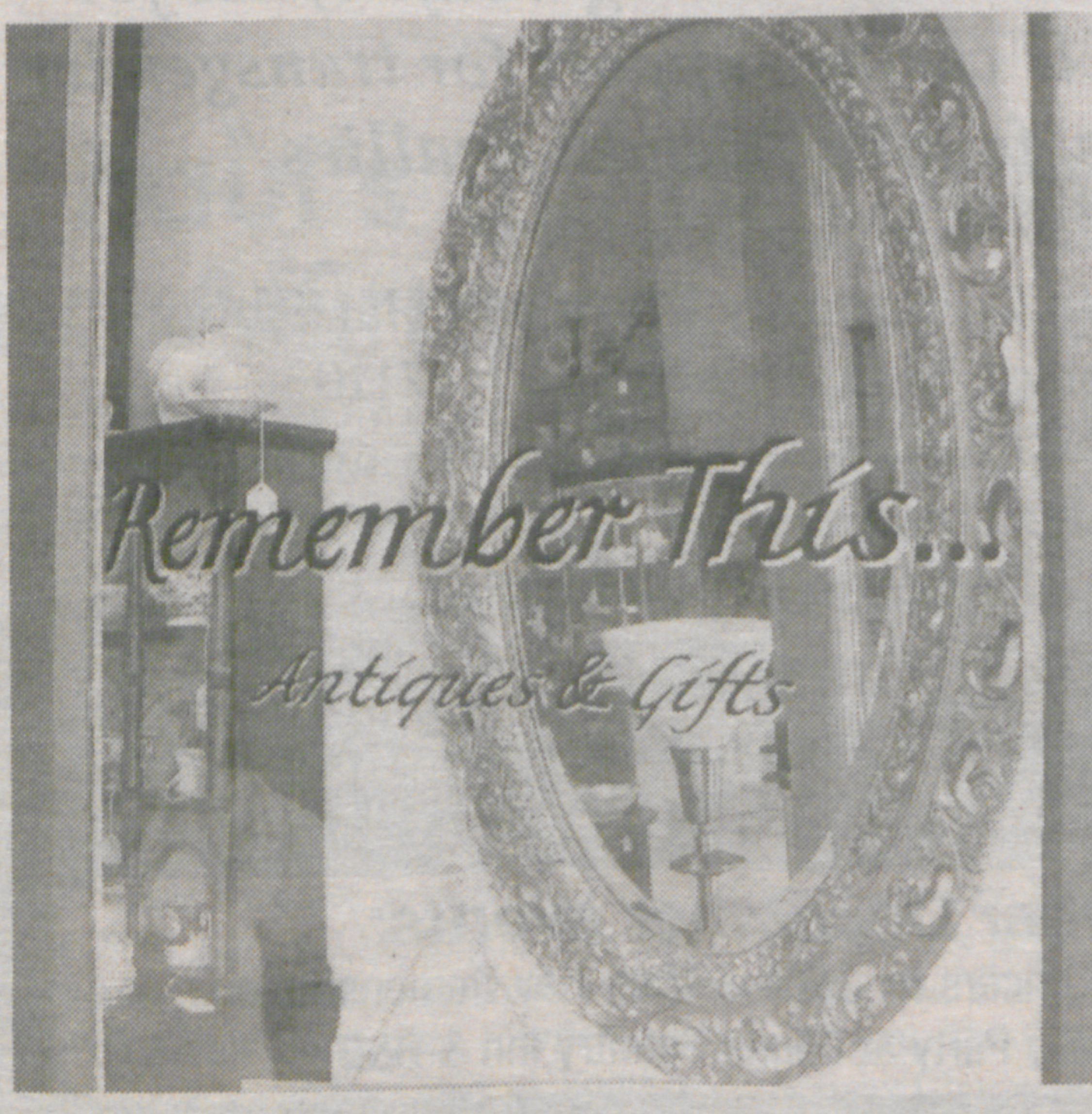


Remember This, a fine antique, collectibles and gift shop formerly at 320 N. Queen St. moved to ja sharp's previous space at 334 N. Queen St. The shop offers English bone china cups and saucers, fine porcelain chocolate pots, delicate sugar and creamers, hand painted cups. The gift shop also offers vintage West Virginia hand blown crackle glass, stretch and carnival glass from the early 20th century, 21st century coin dot vases, mid-century milk glass, hand painted custard glass, full dinnerware sets, platters, cups and saucers, and covered vegetable bowls. Free gift wrapping and/or shipping your gift as needed. 717-509-7660 - www.remember-this.net

New Sunday Matinees

Lancaster Symphony Orchestra Offers Full Schedule

Lancaster Symphony Orchestra is expecting tickets to fly out the door for its November 9-11, 2007 "Emerging Violin Virtuosa" concert weekend at the Fulton Opera House. So many, in fact, that it is launching a new Sunday matinee series that weekend.

The concert weekend features young violinist, Sandy Cameron, performing Karl Goldmark's Violin Concerto.

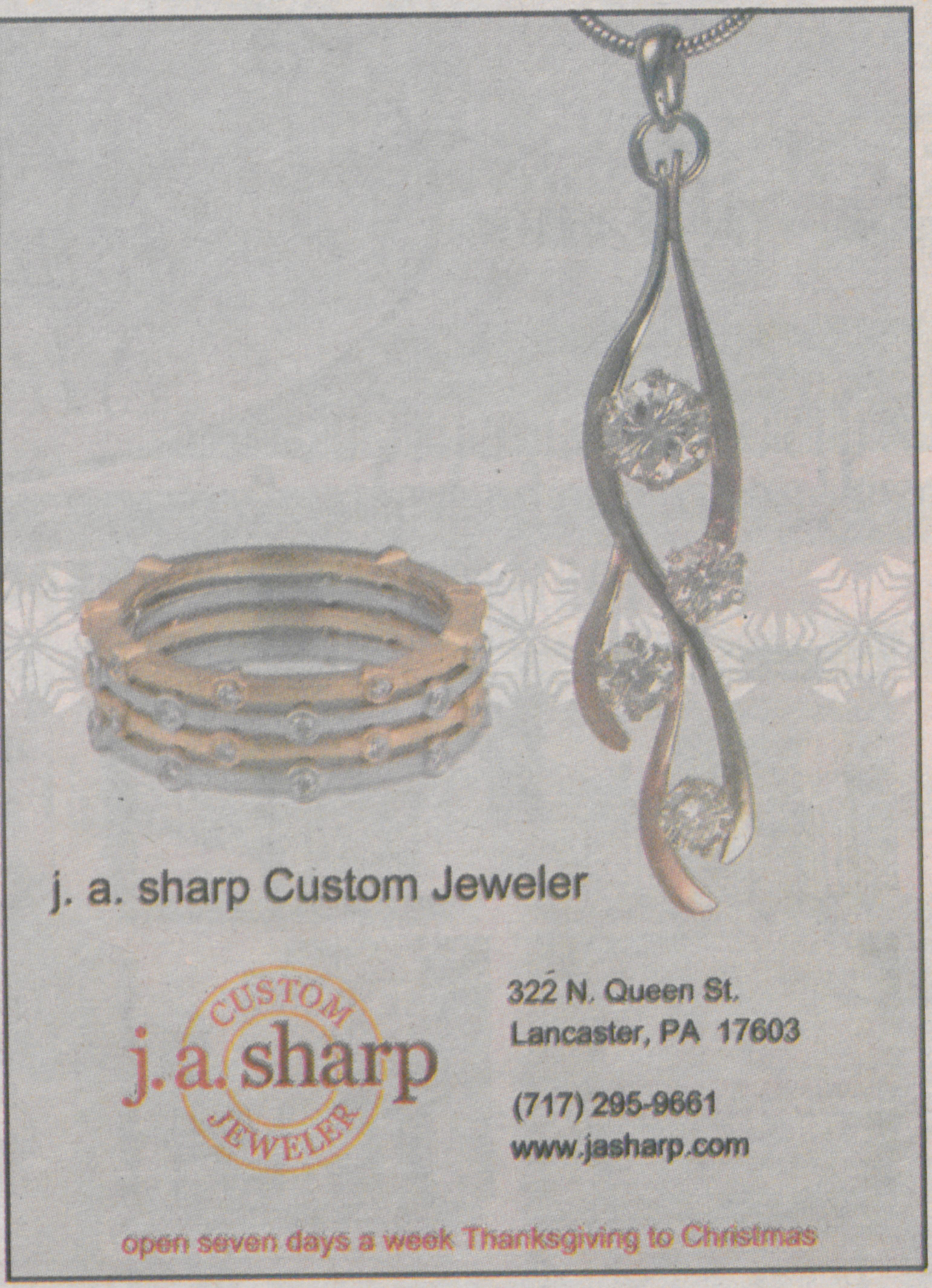
photo by Lori Stahl Photography

Maestro Stephen Gunzenhauser

The new Sunday matinee will be held November 11 at 3 pm. Friday, November 9's opening night performance will begin at 8 pm. The Saturday concerts commence at 3 pm and 8 pm. In addition to the Sunday matinee, there will be a concert Sunday night at 7:30 pm.

The Symphony's "Emerging Violin Virtuosa" concert weekend will also feature three other works. Ludwig van Beethoven's powerful, emotionally intense Coriolan Overture will convey the musical soul of Shakespeare's tragedy, Coriolanus.

The Fulton Opera House, home for the Symphony's Classic Concert Season, is located at 12 North Prince Street in Downtown Lancaster. ickets: (717) 397-7425 range from $23-$58. Group discounts offered.



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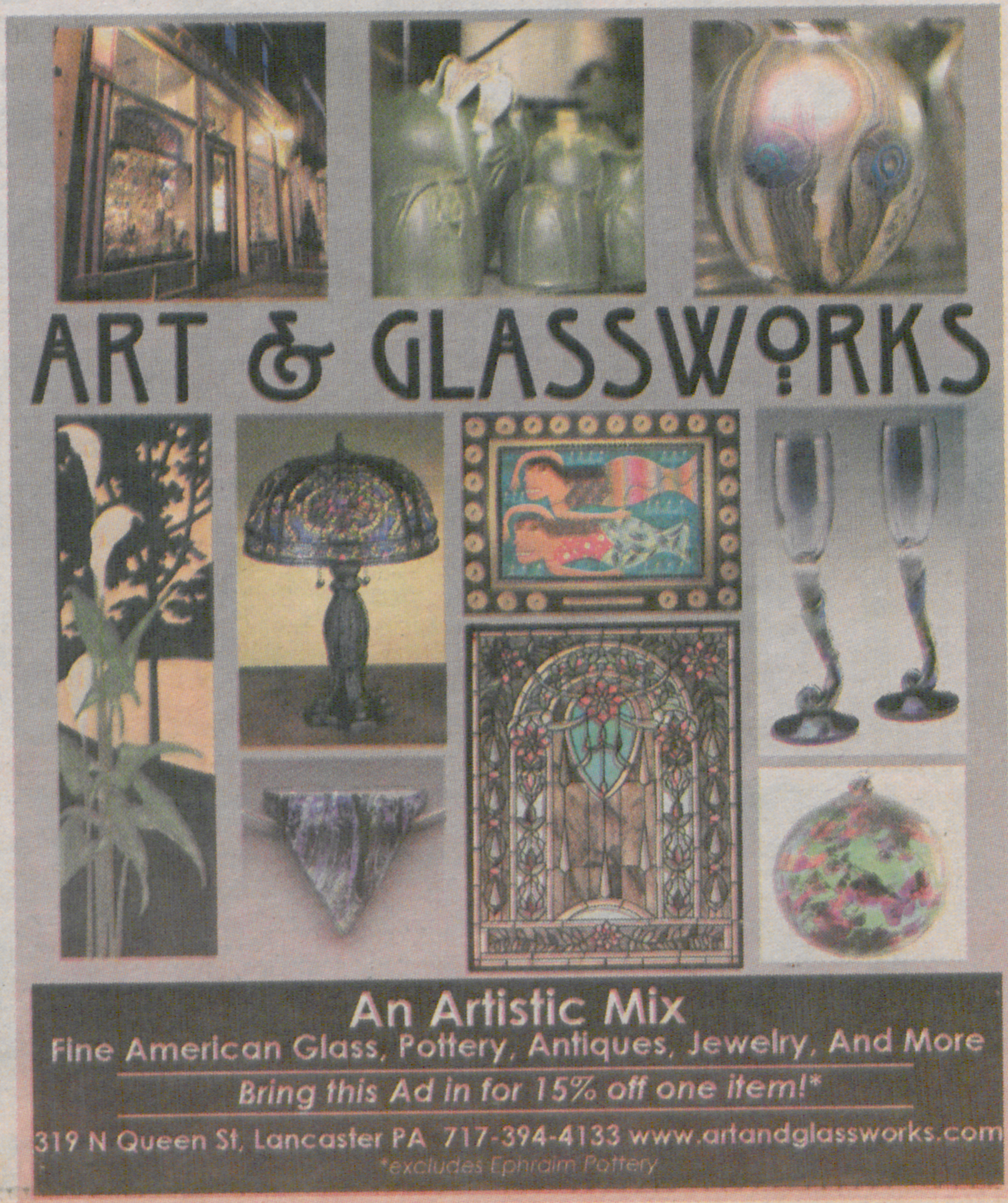

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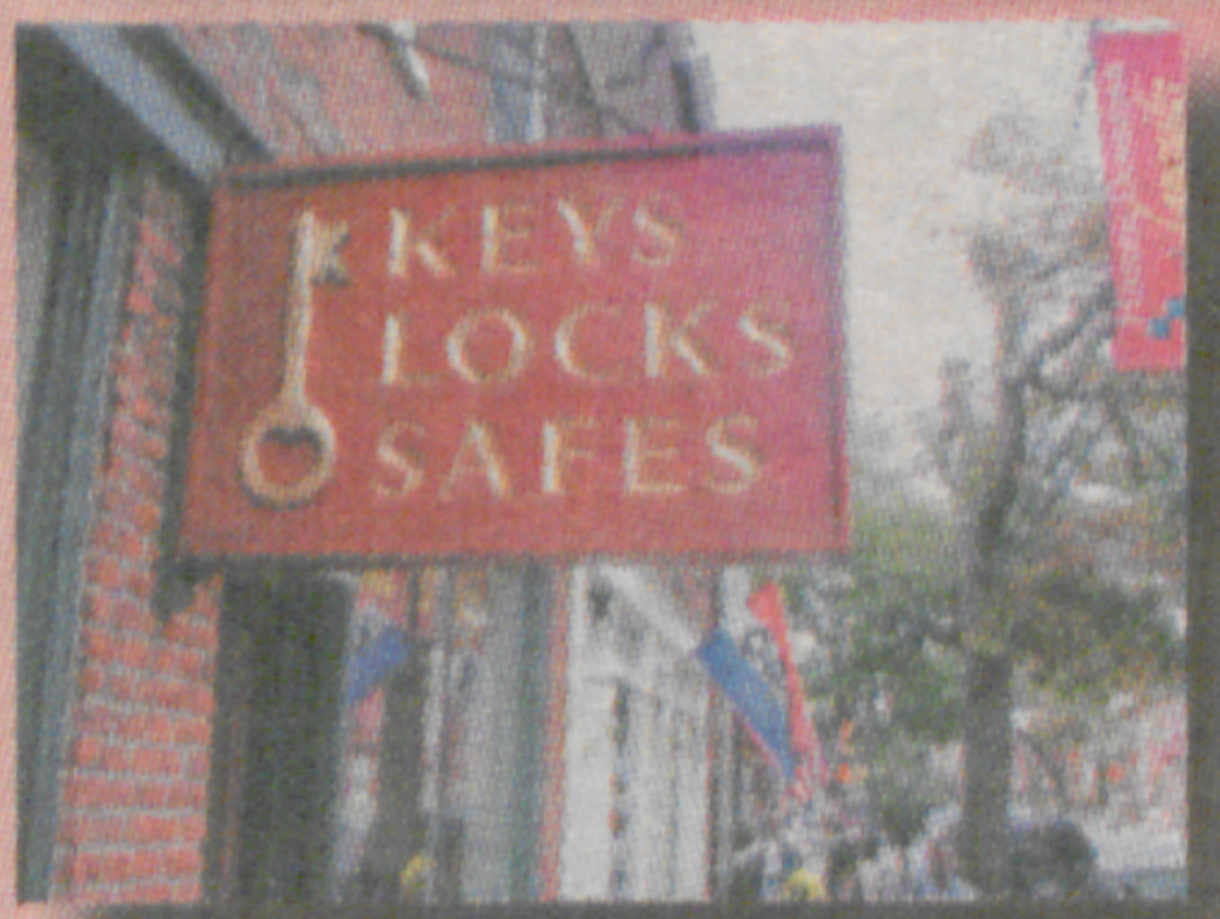
KEYS LOCKS SAFES

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Remember This
D&J Scott Galleries
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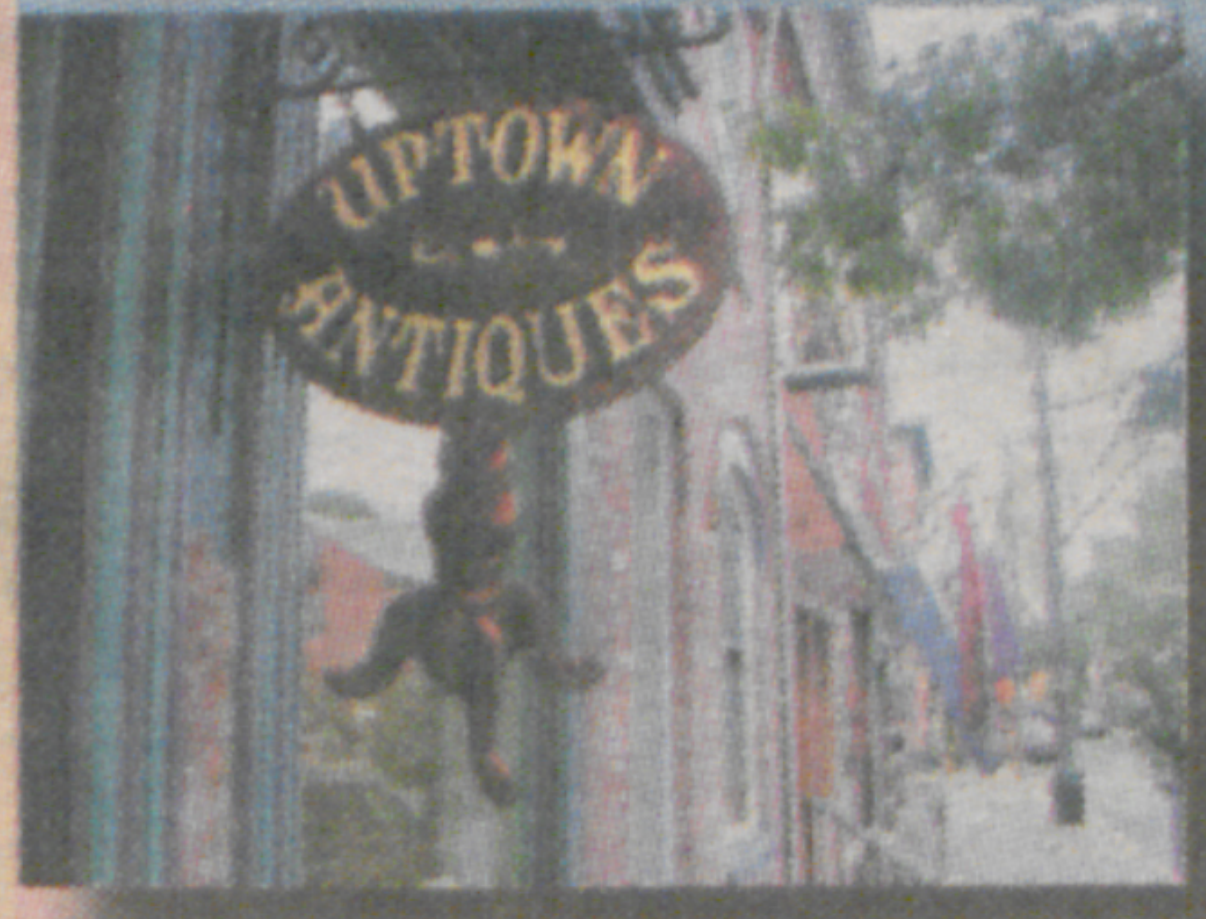
TONY'S BARBER SHOP

Remember This...
Antiques & Gifts

LEBZELTER'S
DOWNTOWN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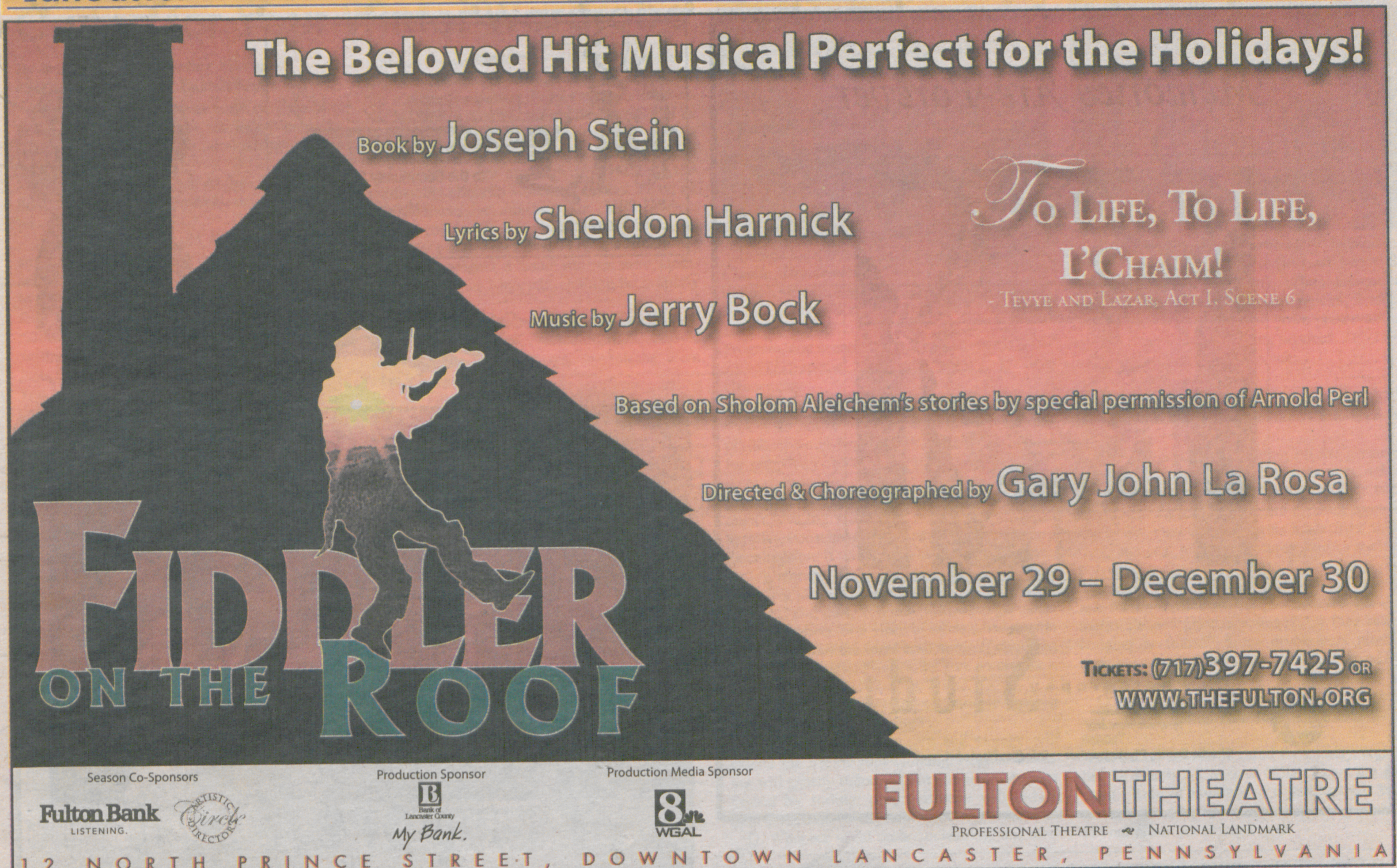
STUDIO STONE
Lancaster School of Massage

Ziggy's MAGIC SHOP

Mark these *First Fridays* on your Calendar— November 2nd and December 7th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Music by Jerry Bock

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Phil Specter produced ***The Ronettes***. Now he wants to be one? Like RuPaul said in her New Yorker magazine profile: We're all born naked and the rest is all drag.

Caring for Your Winter Wardrobe

By Jaime Zurat, Marketing Manager
Classic Drycleaners & Laundromats

Caring for your winter wardrobe does not have to be a chore. Jaime Zurat, marketing manager, Classic Drycleaners & Laundromats gives readers the inside scoop.

Q. Let's start at the end. At the end of winter, how should men and women clean and store winter clothes?

Jaime Zurat, marketing manager, ***Classic Dry Cleaners*** is wearing a nylon and rayon blend top. Her slacks, pressed by Classic, display a crisp crease for a clean professional or social look.

A. All garments should be cleaned prior to storage. Items that are stored dirty can attract insects which love to feed on old stains and soiling. And, just because you don't see moths, doesn't mean they aren't there. Cedar is a great moth repellant that can be used in closets, drawers, or wherever you store clothing. Depending on fabric and preference, you can choose to dry clean or launder your items prior to storage. For wool and cashmere, I suggest dry cleaning, which will eliminate fabric shrinkage and stretching. If you are not sure how to care for your garment, follow the care label. If your garment has no care label, you can either contact the place of purchase or the manufacturer; or you can call your drycleaner for a recommendation. Proper storage is essential for fabrics. Garments (and fabrics) should be stored on the main level of a home, preferably in a closet on an interior wall of your home. Attics and basements are made up of severe and unpredictable climates which can wreak havoc on fabrics. Excessive moisture can cause mildew, and the constant flux between wet and dry environments can dry rot fabric.

Q. Are hangers a good way to store clothing? What other ways can clothing be properly stored?

David Glasco is wearing a 100% wool sweater which requires proper drycleaning care.

A. Items can be stored hanging or folded, depending on the garment and storage space available. For heavier items, try folding them over a hanger if you want to keep them hanging in your closet. Folding garments over a hanger reduces tension on shoulder seams. If you are folding garments in drawers or over hangers, insert acid-free tissue paper between the folds of fabric. This tissue will reduce wrinkles from forming during storage.

Q. Are plastic or synthetic storage bags safe for expensive clothing?

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Penrose Cleaners, conveniently located at 255 Penrose Place, Carlisle, (just off I-81 Exit 47, across from Wal-Mart), offers Executive Shirt Laundry, alterations and repairs, leather and suede services, wedding gown preservation, and drycleaning and finishing services. 717-249-1412; www.penrosecleaners.com

A. I do not recommend storing any fabric in plastic or vinyl bags. Plastic bags are excellent for temporary storage or transportation, but not recommended for long-term or seasonal storage. Plastic and vinyl can trap moisture against garments, causing mildew to form. They also trap harmless household gases against fabric and cause discoloration. If you need to cover your garments during storage, I recommend a breathable garment bag that will protect the garment from direct light and dust. You may also wrap garments in a clean sheet, or a piece of unbleached muslin purchased from the local craft store. If choosing to store garments in boxes, be sure to choose a box made from acid-free cardboard.

Q. Does proper cleaning and storage prolong the life of valuable clothing?

A. Absolutely! Proper care and storage will extend the life of your clothing. Regular cleaning will greatly reduce, if not eliminate, damage caused by soiling; proper storage will reduce damage caused by the elements.

Q. What are usual costs to cleaning, and storing if needed, various items like sweaters, coats, winter suits.

A. Pricing varies depending on the garment, the fabric and the amount of time required to press, or finish, the item. Delicate fabrics such as silk and cashmere are more difficult to clean and press; therefore, garments made from these materials cost more than sturdy fabrics such as polyester and wool. If you prefer to have your drycleaner store your garments between seasons, ask for an outline of the process. Are the garments cleaned prior to storage? Are they stored hanging or folded? Some drycleaners provide seasonal storage free of charge, like Classic Drycleaners does.

Q. Are there any differences between how men and women should care for their winter wardrobes?

A. Fabric should be cared for equally, regardless of whether a man or ladies wears the garment. Rule of thumb – if a garment has been worn, it should be cleaned prior to being returned to your closet for storage.

Want to be a Silent Witness?

Although summer Pride Celebrations are now past, area pride celebrations and events occur throughout the year. A special group of people from central Pennsylvania provide a safe haven for those attending these celebrations. They are known as the Silent Witnesses of Central PA (SWPA).

The Allentown Human Relations Commission recently honored the group with an "Honorable Mention" for its Human Relations Award. Silent Witnesses was nominated by Rabbi Carl Choper, recognizing their training in peaceful intervention to create a distance and separate protesters at the Lehigh Valley Pride Festival in August. "Your training and friendly umbrellas defused a volatile situation," the commission said.

SWPA is an organization of gay and straight allies dedicated to providing a non-confrontational buffer between those who condemn others based on their sexual orientation or identity and those they condemn. The organization was founded eight years ago by Yvonne Wilson, from the glbt-friendly Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit. In recent years, the group has expanded to include members from 10 regional churches. "Homophobia is a problem created by straight people who also need to be active in fixing it," Berger notes. Pride festivals and celebrations were created as a way for the glbt community to relax, enjoy the entertainment, network and share resources. "They shouldn't have to work protecting themselves or thwarting the efforts of religious or other groups opposed to their gaining civil rights," Berger says.

We provide visual protection from "street preachers" and protesters at events such as Pridefests, the showing of films such as Jim in Bold, or staging of plays such as The Laramie Project, using our bodies, signs, and rainbow umbrellas as shields, says Alanna Berger. Executive Director. In times of need, we intervene to prevent confrontations between protesters and event participants, often acting as escorts for those who would like to attend such events, she explains.

Where there are those who publicly promote hate, we will be there to help provide a loving, supportive front opposing them. We are not counter-protesters. Instead, we provide a visual representation of support for those in our society who may feel marginalized, Berger says.

While individual SWPA members may hold deep religious beliefs, and are free to express them during events, SWPA supports diversity in all its forms, including religion. "Although many members became involved with SWPA through their affiliation with Metropolitan Community Churches, Unitarian Universalist churches, Evangelical Lutheran and Episcopal churches, other members of the greater community have joined because they believe in Silent Witness' vision of equality and fair treatment," Berger says. SWPA has, for example, been asked to train Gay/Straight Alliances on college campuses because protesters have begun working the college circuit.

For some, it is their belief in the all-abiding love of their God that inspires them to do this work. For others it is their belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all people that drives their participation. Whatever the motivation, the result is the same: we will continue to support the rights of those who suffer expressions of hate, Berger says.

For more information about **Silent Witnesses of Central PA** and training opportunities, email: director@silentwitnesspa.org.

See Silent Witnesses in action:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgnF-8ISNW0

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1uWLknlgDk

http://www.silentwitnesspa.org/

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L to R: Model Steve **Gold**, model **Lydia Hearst**, model **Lugi**, and Models Hotel founder **Jesper Lannung**.

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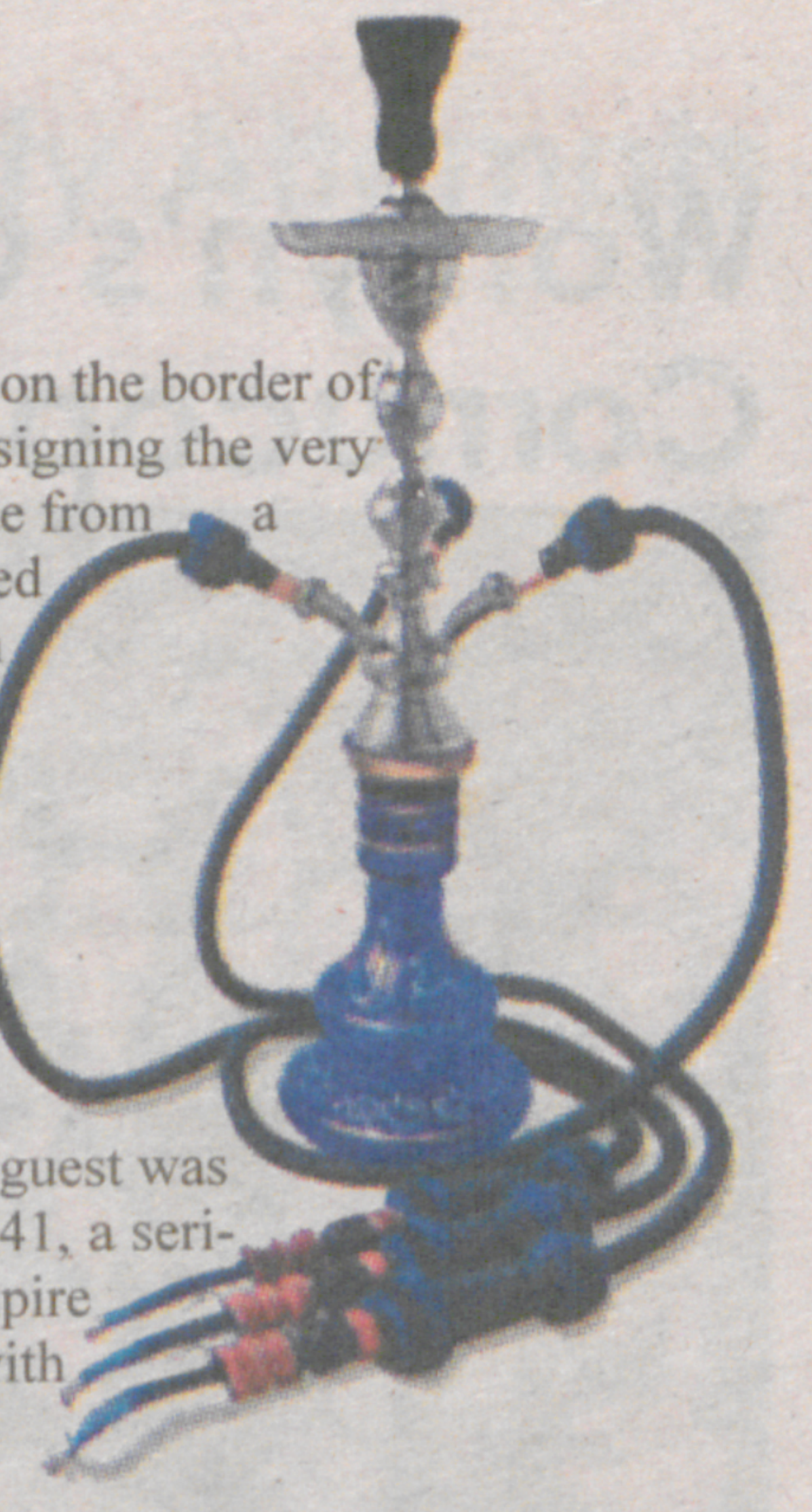

By Kristen Richards

History

Nearly a millennia back in the North Western Provinces of India, on the border of Pakistan and Gujarat, the people were very simple but creative, designing the very first hookah or tobacco water pipe. It was primitive but rugged, made from a coconut base with a tube and attached head. Two holes were bored and coconut milk became the filter. Originally designed for opium smoking, the hookah made it's way to the Persian Kingdom , including Pakistan, Middle Asia and Arab parts of North Africa, and all the way to Turkey, 500 years ago. It's popularity and design grew amongst the upper class and intellectuals. Eventually, brass and glass replaced the coconut shells, similar to today's larger and more unique hookahs.

Symbolic

Hookahs became important state's symbols and offering one to a guest was a sign of trust. Withholding it was viewed as a serious insult. In 1841, a serious diplomatic crisis occurred between France and the Ottoman Empire after a Sultan refused the French ambassador a chance to smoke with him

Tobacco Flavors

Shisha is the name given to hookah tobacco and is available in assortments of flavors including Strawberry, vanilla, pineapple, melon and many others. Mixing flavors creates new flavors. Storing tobacco in air-tight containers in cool, dry places maintains optimal freshness.

Parts

Modern hookah contain four parts; Agizlik - mouthpiece of the hose, Lli - top or bowl, Marpu - hose, and Gvde - body of the pipe which can be filled with water, juice or wine.

Hookah Etiquette

Today, hookah bars/restaurants are a great place for smokers to enjoy social interaction, good conversation and a relaxing environment. However, basic guidelines apply. Never set hookahs on tables or ledges. Do not pass hookahs directly to the next person. Always place the hookah on the floor in front of them. Most importantly, do not smoke anything but tobacco (shisha) out of the hookah.

Where to Purchase?

Hookahs, along with flavored tobaccos, tobacco pipes from around the world, candles, jewelry, body oils and incense are available at Magical Incense Shop at 20 S. Market St. in Mechanicsburg. Refer to ad on page (20). Hookahs, flavored tobacco, incense and hand-blown glass are also available at Hempt's Above, 105 N. Arch St, Mechanicsburg - above the Art Depot. See ad on page (35).

Where to Enjoy?

You can also enjoy hookahs and flavored tobacco at the following restaurants: Citadel Indian Grill & Hookah Lounge, 17 S. 2nd St., Harrisburg - Indian food & hookahs. Skewers/Hookah on 2nd, 316 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg - Kabobs & hookah. 2nd St. Kabobs, 620 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg - Kabobs & hookah. Javid's Indian Grill & Hookah Lounge, 204 N. Hanover St., Carlisle. Indian food & hookah.

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Womyn's Chorus Offers Musical Cornucopia

It's harvest time in central Pennsylvania, and there will be a bumper crop of fine voices gathered together for the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus Concert Nov.10, 7 pm. at Harrisburg Area Community College's Rose Lehrman Performing Arts Center. The concert is offered in collaboration with the Harrisburg Men's Chorus and Common Roads, is titled "Holy Cow, We Can't Stop Singing!"

"We're welcoming the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, and we will perform some joint pieces with them which have highlighted past concerts," noted CPWC member Cynthia Swanson. "In addition, members of Common Roads are joining us as we reach out into the community to provide positive performance opportunities and mentoring for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth."

Thanks to a generous grant from Jump Street, ticket prices are only $15 for adults and $5 for seniors and students with ID.

The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus is recognized for musical excellence in a wide range of styles, including classical, folk, jazz, a cappella, chants and rounds, show tunes and popular songs of the 20th century. CPWC, which is dedicated to celebrating and empowering women and affirming a positive image of lesbians and feminists, also performs contemporary compositions.

The chorus has performed widely, including Montreal's GALA Festival in 2004, the Pennsylvania Capitol for the Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network, the State Museum Theater in Harrisburg, the 20th anniversary celebration of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and as the opening act and backup singers for Judy Collins at her Christmas 2000 concert. Info: www.cpwchorus.org, www.harrisburgmenschorus.org; www.commonroads.org.

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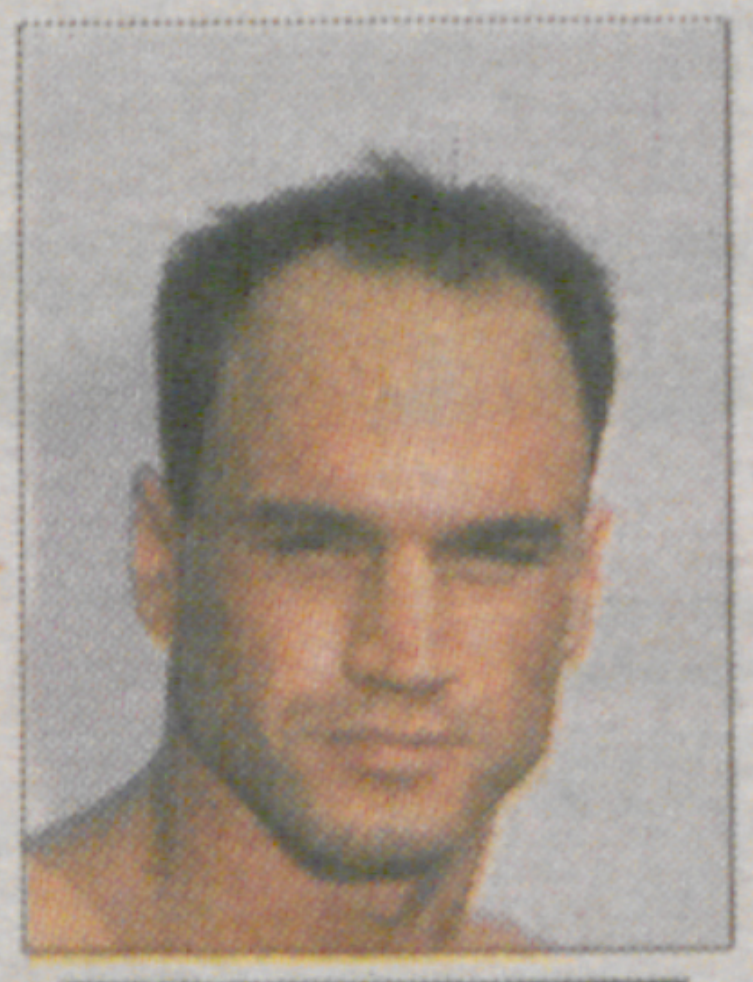

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FIGHT SONG

Out Singer Matthew Duffy Attempts to Rally Gay Troops

by Max Jimenez

Matthew Duffy's debut album, "Here I Come", created waves in clubs three years ago, helping to usher in the electro sound that has since taken over the world's dance floors. Led by the Billboard hit *Electric Shock*, and then *Little Bird*, Duffy was able to combine old school flava house with electro madness and strong pop melodies. The seductive album established Duffy as a revolutionary artist, not afraid to shake things up on the playground.

Now he returns with *The Healing Machine*. In it, Duffy becomes something of an activist, taking on global issues like hate crimes, the war and the environment. The first single, *#1 Enemy* - currently playing in heavy rotation on LOGO-TV's The Click List – is just the first of several tracks on the album to address those Duffy holds responsible for the state of the world. It's where the young artist points his finger of blame that is surprising fans.

Why did you title your sophomore album THE HEALING MACHINE?

I was inspired by Cat Steven's song, "The Wind", which I cover on the album. There is a line in it that says, "I let my music take me where my heart wants to go." Music for me is my healing machine.

In this second album, you tackle some hefty issues.

The world is spinning so fast and I'm finding that as we develop more modes of communication, we are becoming more disconnected. In this new album, I explore ways we can get back to connecting with each other. In the end, the only way we can grow and ultimately heal is through each other.

Would you say the world is screwed up?

Definitely. We're stuck in a war we can't get out of. Healthcare is a joke and we're heading towards a recession. Don't even get me started on gay rights.

We've made some important strides with gay marriage but we have also experienced some major setbacks recently.

Yes, especially with the increase in hate crimes. It's shameful. But you know, I think we as a community are partly to blame.

How so?

We underestimate our potential. We need to use our collective strength as gay men and women instead of working separately on vital issues. Also, I think many in the gay community are selling themselves short by being destructive with drugs and unsafe sex.

So would you say that we are our own #1 enemy?

I would. Nice lead in to my new single, by the way.

It's a powerful song, Matthew. And the video is sparking a lot of interest too!

The video for the song is about injustice and standing up for who you are and what you believe in. It's also about struggling with your own self and those who want to disparage you.

When I watched it, I saw a story of redemption and that "one love will set us free".

Exactly! And that one love is yourself. In the end, you must rely on yourself to be strong and powerful.

What is the significance of the kiss on the forehead?

The man represents a prophet or a life force that cleanses my character of hatred and shame.

He is gorgeous!

His name is Blake Towsley. He's an actor we discovered in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, he is straight.

Your first album, HERE I COME, was a critical and commercial success. How will you repeat that with THE HEALING MACHINE?

I learned so much and continue to learn from my first record. On the business side, I developed an incredible understanding of the music machine and how each part - licensing, production, distribution - plays in getting your music heard and your art seen. From my fans, I really learned so much about how life surprises you and how lucky I am to be making music for people.

Will you do anything differently with the second album?

I will plan a proper tour with this release. On the first album, I was so busy writing and recording the second album, I couldn't break out of the studio. This time, I'm taking a much needed breather from the studio and hitting the road.

How do you feel THE HEALING MACHINE compares to HERE I COME?

The new album shows my musical growth. It's a lot more aggressive then HERE I COME. I utilize a real rock foundation on some tracks and some experimental and untraditional synths and percussion elements as well. I definitely approached the album and each song as a story that I share both sonically and lyrically.

I was a big fan of your first album, but the message in the new album is exponentially more powerful.

My goal with HERE I COME was to challenge my fans to think of the reality we lived in at the time. In *THE HEALING MACHINE*, I am asking people to look at themselves and reflect how they are directly affecting today's reality.

For more information on Matthew Duffy, visit his website at www.matthewduffy.com.

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· November 18 · 5:30 pm · Family Thanksgiving Dinner

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· December 2, 9, & 16 · 8:15 and 10:30 am
· December 2 · following 10:30 service, Family Advent Celebration
· December 23 · 9:30 am (one service only) Choirs will present a Christmas program

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Real or temporary?

Is Midtown Harrisburg's N. 3rd Street Reviving?

With a slew of new small business openings in Midtown Harrisburg's North 3rd, Street section, Forster St. to Reily, is the up and down city neighborhood finally reviving?

A half century ago, Scranton, Pennsylvania's Jane Jacobs, elegantly hammered home in her 1961 book, "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" there is no utopia to be found. She did not believe planners could ever restore life to American cities. Instead she put her faith in the chaos of urban life, in diversity, in people. An exhibit "Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York" runs through Jan. 5 at the Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison Avenue, at 51st Street; (212) 935-3960 or mas.org.

Culture Clash?

"I'd like to see the block pick up," says one long-time apartment dweller on North 3rd St. "We'll have a clash of the cultures with HACC coming into the neighborhood and mixing it up with the street walkers, the step dwellers, and people who hang around and seem to do nothing much."

She's referring to the growing influx of Harrisburg Area Community College students into the new Third and Reily student center. Historically, the North 3rd St. Corridor has always functioned as secondary business district to the city's central business district downtown. "Smaller shops, closer to the households always lined the block," remembers Harold, who has always lived in and around the new development. He says that "when the place went down it went down hard, as did the city itself. I'd like to see it roar back, blow away the crime element."

HACC
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HACC Midtown, corner of 3rd and Reilly, is drawing students to the neighborhood. At full capacity, as many as 2,500 students are expected to use the renovated facility and others underway.

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After starting at 1314 N. 3rd and now moving to 1306 for larger quarters, JM's Thrift offers one-of-a-kind vintage household items.

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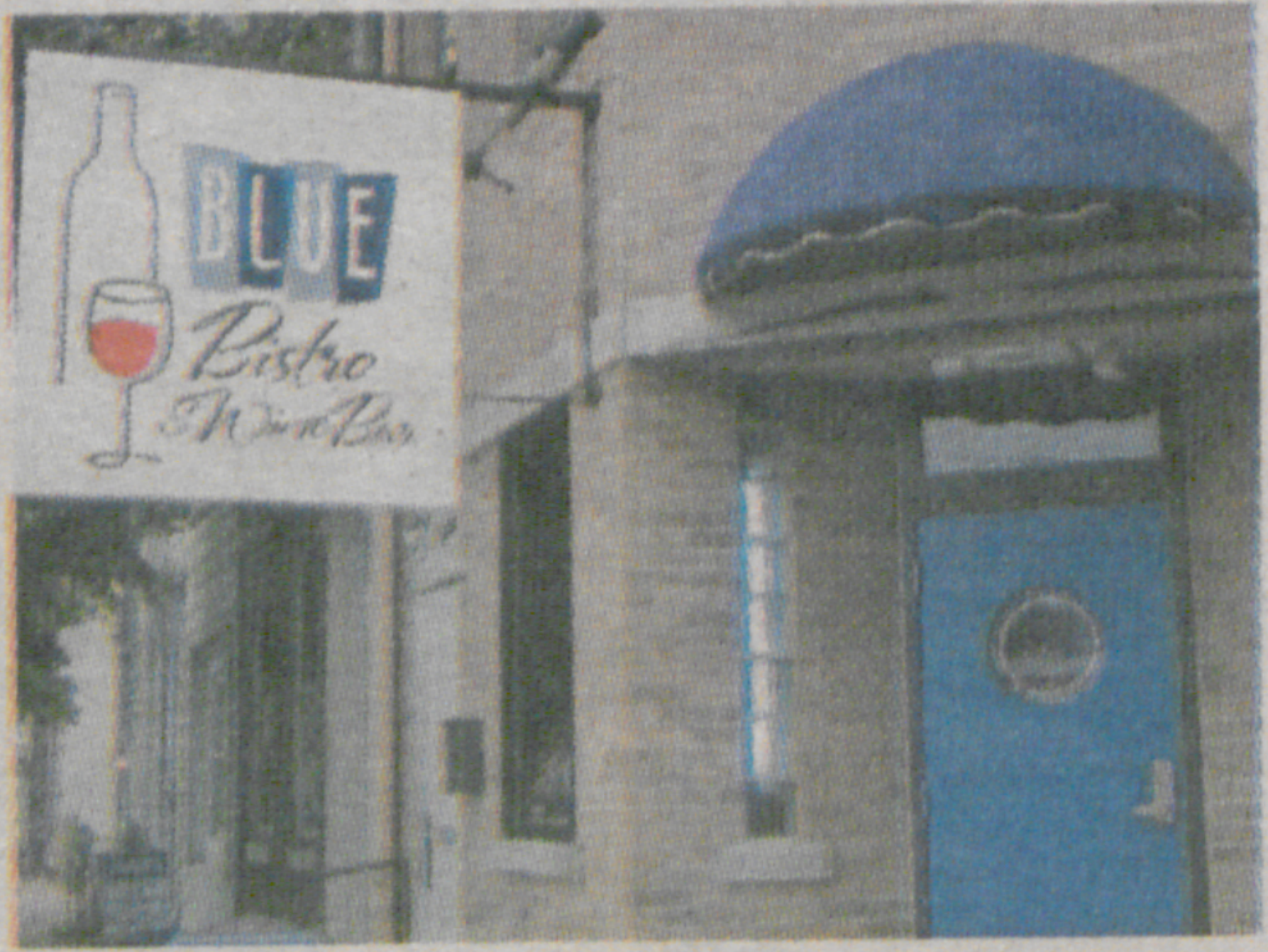
Pampered Peacock Vintage clothing, 1006 N. 3rd St., offers quality vintage clothing.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Blue Bistro, 1311 N. 2nd St., opened to super reviews. See Review in Food, Page 29.

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Ventura house offers Jamaican, American, and Chinese cuisine.

Mercato D'Italiano
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Formerly The Italian Market, now Mercato D'Italiano, 1012 N. 3rd St. offers fresh sandwiches and other menu items.

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Pearl Hair & Nail Salon, 310 Reily, is set for hair, manicure, and pedicure services.

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MeditationPA.org, 1419 N. 3rd St., offers classes and programs to quiet down your inner space.

JANE JACOBS FUTURE NEW YORK

Exhibit "Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York" through Jan. 5, Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison Avenue, at 51st Street; (212) 935-3960 or mas.org.

The Central PA Womyn's Chorus presents:

"Holy Cow! We Can't Stop Singing!"

COMMON ROADS

GIVING VOICE TO OUR COMMUNITY · CENTRAL PA · WOMYN'S CHORUS

Harrisburg Men's Chorus

In Collaboration with the Harrisburg Men's Chorus & Common Roads

Saturday – November 10, 2007 @ 7pm

at HACC's Rose Lehrman Performing Arts Center

Tickets: $15.00 (can be purchased at the door).

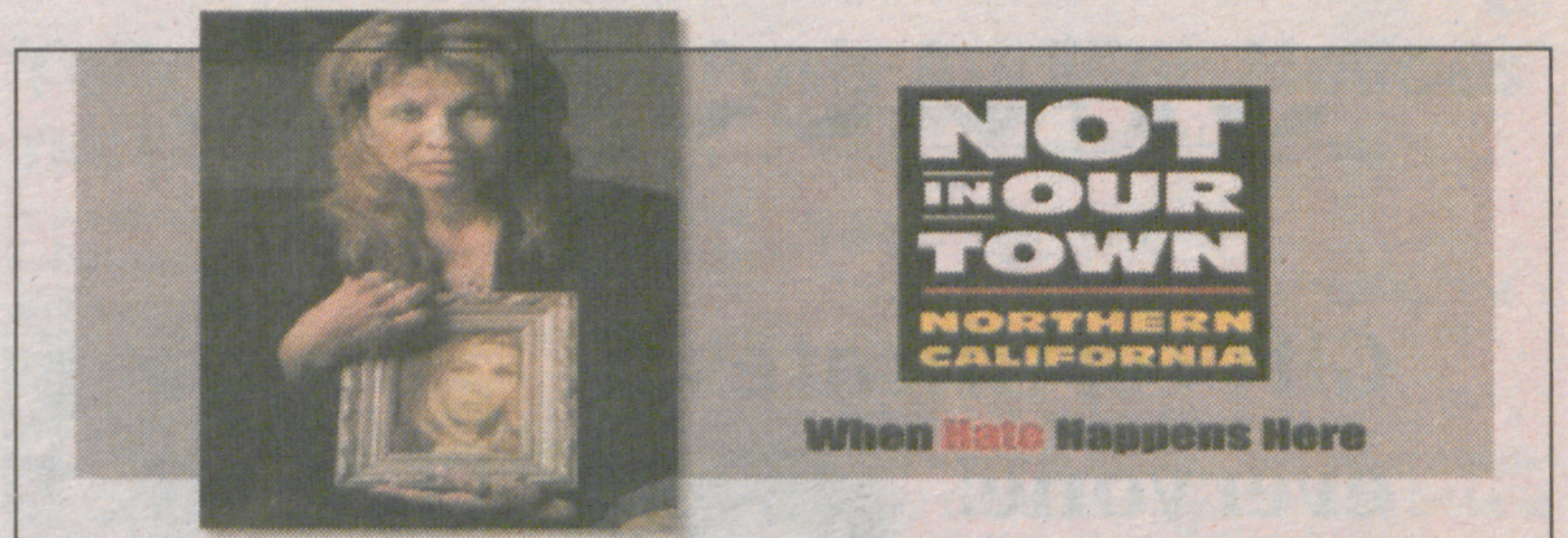
Children under 18/Students with ID
& Seniors 65 & older – $5.00

For more information: call Cynthia Swanson—564-0112

This Concert is funded in part by generous grants from EGAL—Equity for Gays & Lesbians —a fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, and from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, through Jump Street."

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

the Foundation for Enhancing Communities



What would you do if hate hit your town?

All too frequently we hear stories of hate violence from vandalism to harassment to murder. Most of us would like to do something. And the good news is — we do. The Pennsylvania Network of Unity Coalitions presents -

Staging a Response to Hate

While rehearsing a school production of The Laramie Project, about the hate killing of gay college student Matthew Shepard, high school students are confronted with a real-life version of the story they are telling on stage. When a transgender teen is murdered, cast members apply the lessons they learned from the play. The experience becomes a catalyst for parents, residents and civic leaders to take action against hate. ***The film was is a co-production of The Working Group and KQED-TV For More Information about the Not In Our Town: www.theworkinggroup.org***

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2007

Time: 12:00 P.M. - Noon

Location: Midtown Cinema
250 Riley Street . Harrisburg, PA

To help defray the cost, donations will be accepted at the door. For more information about the Pennsylvania Network of Unity Coalitions, please visit www.paunity.bravehost.com

HARRISBURG Symphony Orchestra
Stuart Malina, Music Director

Songs of Saints & Sinners

Nov. 17 @ 8PM
Nov. 18 @ 3PM

Rossini ~ Overture to "La Gazza Ladra"
Hindemith ~ Mathis Der Maler
Brahms ~ Piano Concerto No. 1

Guest Artist Andrew Armstrong, Piano
Sponsored by the Hall Foundation

Catch a Rising Star

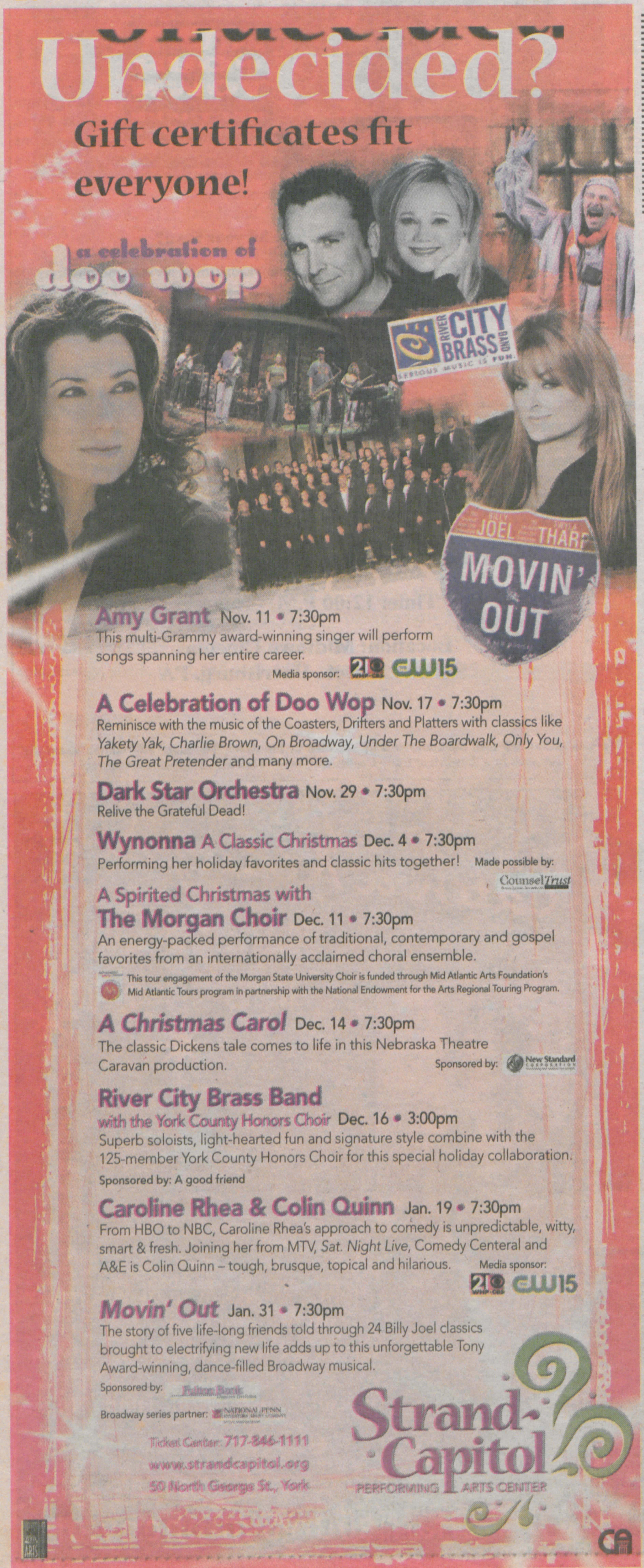
Jan. 12 @ 8PM
Jan. 13 @ 3PM

Featuring Konrad Binienda, Piano
Grand Prize Champion
Rising Stars Concerto Competition

Sibelius ~ The Swan of Tuonela
Chopin ~ Piano Concerto No. 1
Bartok ~ Concerto for Orchestra

Sponsored by the Kline Foundation

Tickets at 717.545.5527
HarrisburgSymphony.org



Undecided?

Gift certificates fit everyone!

a celebration of doo wop

Amy Grant Nov. 11 • 7:30pm
This multi-Grammy award-winning singer will perform songs spanning her entire career.
Media sponsor: 21 CW15

A Celebration of Doo Wop Nov. 17 • 7:30pm
Reminisce with the music of the Coasters, Drifters and Platters with classics like *Yakety Yak, Charlie Brown, On Broadway, Under The Boardwalk, Only You, The Great Pretender* and many more.

Dark Star Orchestra Nov. 29 • 7:30pm
Relive the Grateful Dead!

Wynonna A Classic Christmas Dec. 4 • 7:30pm
Performing her holiday favorites and classic hits together! Made possible by: CounselTrust

A Spirited Christmas with
The Morgan Choir Dec. 11 • 7:30pm
An energy-packed performance of traditional, contemporary and gospel favorites from an internationally acclaimed choral ensemble.
This tour engagement of the Morgan State University Choir is funded through Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation's Mid Atlantic Tours program in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program.

A Christmas Carol Dec. 14 • 7:30pm
The classic Dickens tale comes to life in this Nebraska Theatre Caravan production.
Sponsored by: New Standard Corporation

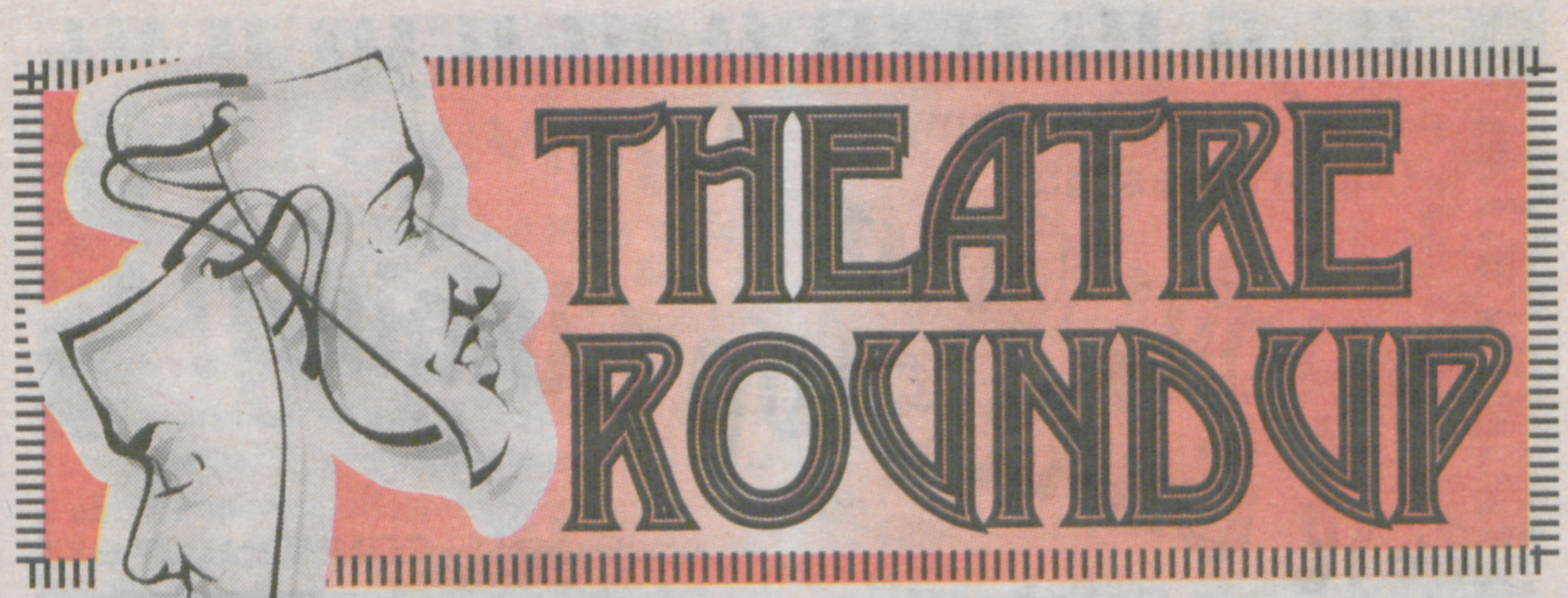
River City Brass Band
with the York County Honors Choir Dec. 16 • 3:00pm
Superb soloists, light-hearted fun and signature style combine with the 125-member York County Honors Choir for this special holiday collaboration.
Sponsored by: A good friend

Caroline Rhea & Colin Quinn Jan. 19 • 7:30pm
From HBO to NBC, Caroline Rhea's approach to comedy is unpredictable, witty, smart & fresh. Joining her from MTV, *Sat. Night Live*, Comedy Centeral and A&E is Colin Quinn – tough, brusque, topical and hilarious.
Media sponsor: 21 CW15

Movin' Out Jan. 31 • 7:30pm
The story of five life-long friends told through 24 Billy Joel classics brought to electrifying new life adds up to this unforgettable Tony Award-winning, dance-filled Broadway musical.
Sponsored by: Fulton Bank
Broadway series partner: National Penn

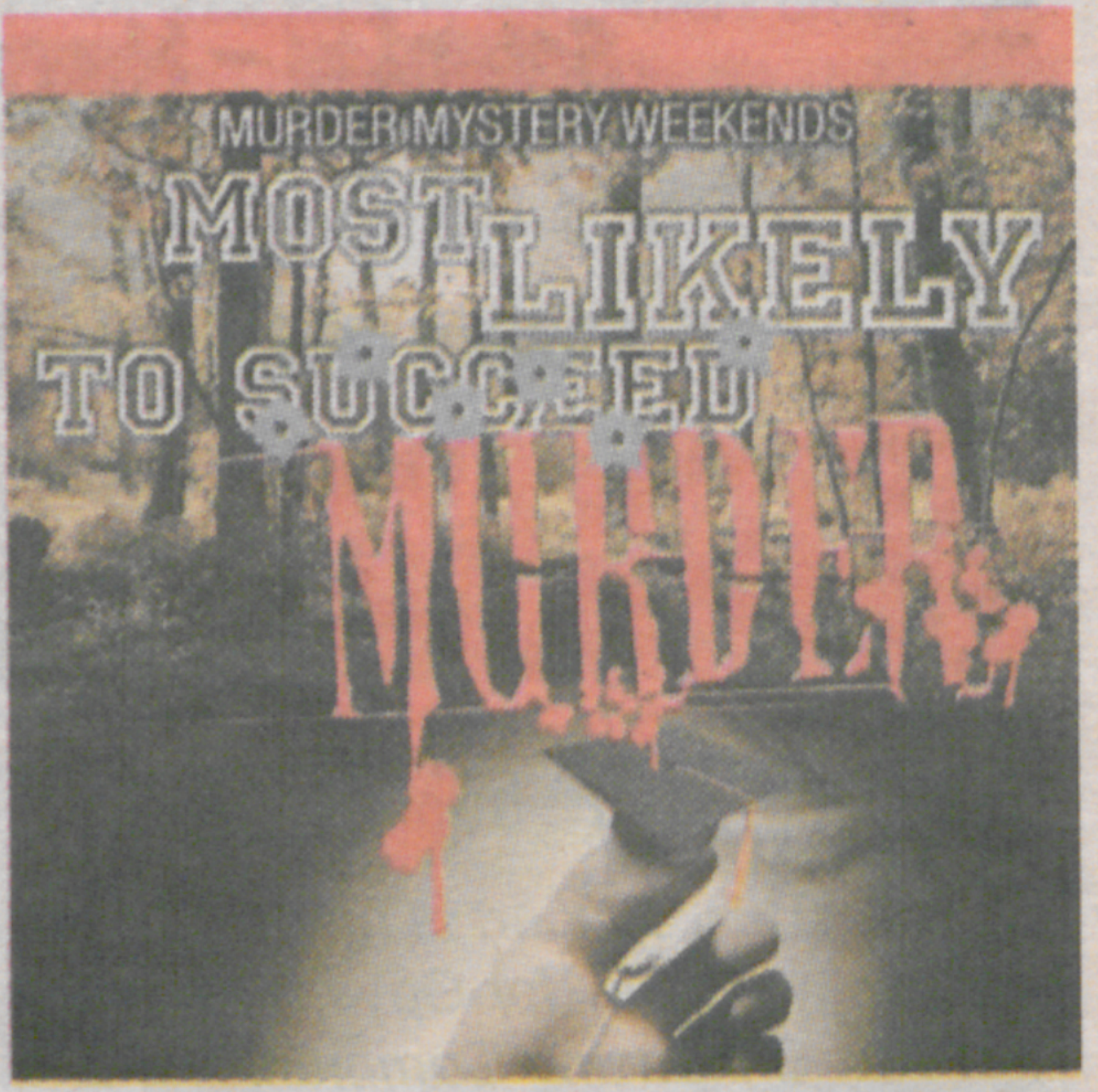
Ticket Center: 717-846-1111
www.strandcapitol.org
50 North George St., York

Strand-Capitol
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



THEATRE ROUNDUP

Allenberry Offers Murder Mystery Weekends



MURDER MYSTERY WEEKENDS
MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED MURDER

Allenberry is offering their 22nd season of their popular Murder Mystery Weekends, this year with twist.

As a member of the Heinze family, Jackie grew up at Allenberry. She remembers working Allenberry's very first Murder Mystery Weekend twenty-some years ago. She, her sister, and her cousins checked coats for guests and earned $80 in tips; divided by four, it was a small fortune. But what she recalls most about that weekend was David Brubaker's thrilling script, which transformed Allenberry into what looked like a film noir set, with police tape strung up, real bullets lodged into walls, a shiny black hearse rolling through the property, and sinister characters milling around.

When Bob Crawford became Allenberry's resident Murder Mystery writer, Jackie enjoyed watching gratified audiences return year after year to delight in his original plots, kooky characters, and unremitting sense of humor. *Most Likely to Murder* is Jackie's first script for Allenberry. "It's an honor to follow these two writers, David and Bob," she says. "I've inherited a process that has become a wonderful tradition here at Allenberry, and I'm eager to continue in their footsteps."

Jackie wrote *Most Likely to Murder* from her Brooklyn apartment, which she shares with her true love, Kyle, also a writer and her sounding board. She has already begun Allenberry's next Murder Mystery, *Lights, Camera, Murder!* as well as the 2008–09 Christmas show.

Allenberry's Murder Mystery Weekends run through the weekend of April 18. Information: www.allenberry.com

Nov. 11

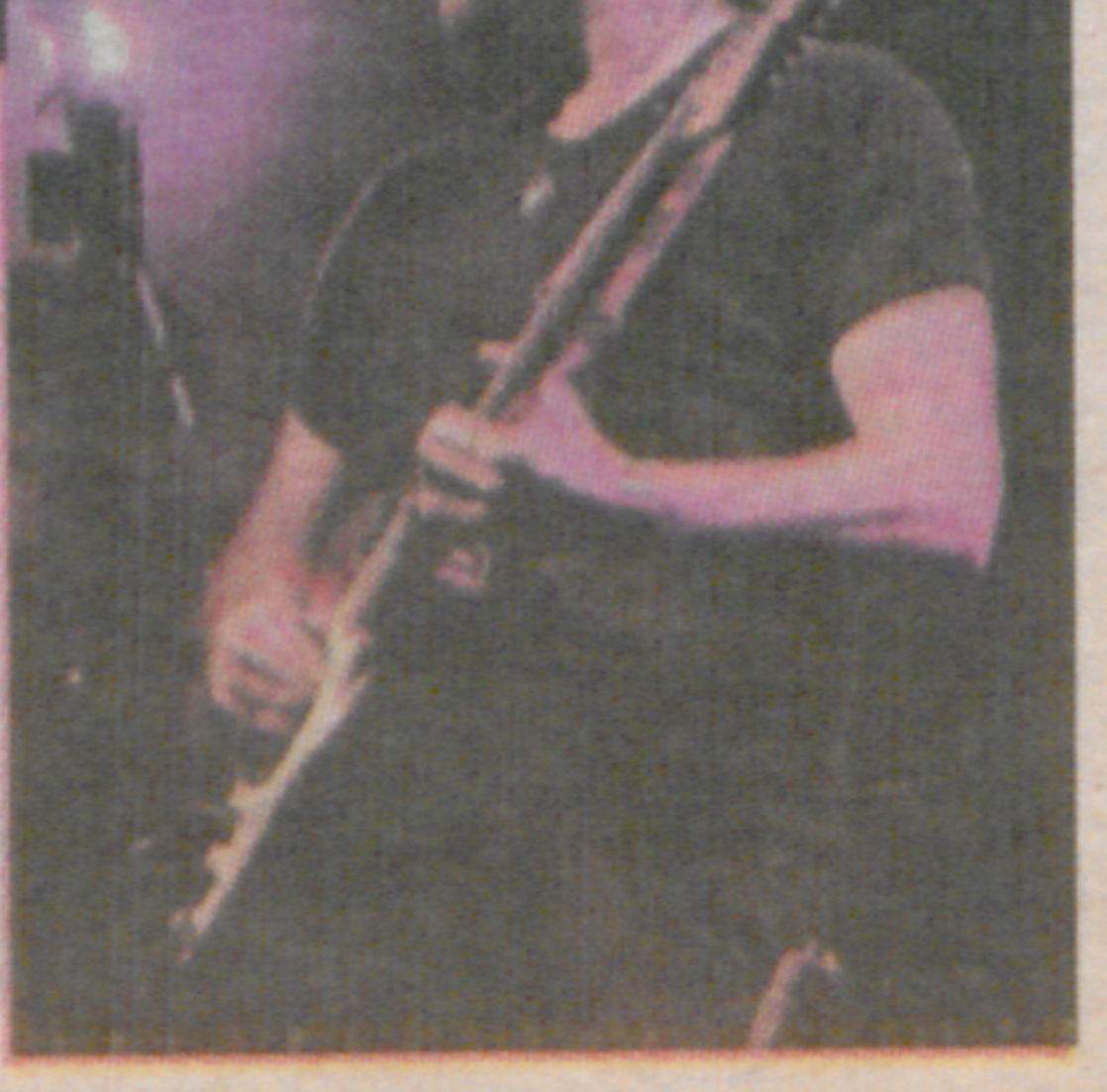
Australian Pink Floyd Show at Hershey Theatre

AUSSIE FLOYD

Even though a Pink Floyd reunion is nowhere in sight, fans of the spellbinding music and psychedelic lightshows still have a chance to experience one of the greatest bands of all time with the Australian Pink Floyd Show. Nov. 11, 8 pm, this incredible live concert features amazing musicians performing Pink Floyd's music with astonishing note-for-note perfection in a dazzling stage show.

The Australian Pink Floyd Show is well established as one of the definitive concerts in the world for live music audiences. It continues to cross generational lines by capturing the most exciting elements any performance today. For two hours, fans will hear original Pink Floyd music; a psychedelic light show modeled after Pink Floyd world tours as well as movies, animations and giant inflatable extras prove this show to be a phenomenon. Fans at this show will enjoy the stunning, full-length recreation of the landmark Pink Floyd album Dark Side Of The Moon, plus a greatest hits set.

The show's ultimate endorsement is that David Gilmour, Pink Floyd's guitarist, is a fan himself, having seen The Australian Pink Floyd Show many times. Besides that, former Pink Floyd sound engineer Colin Norfield will be at the mixing desk along with a number of other original Pink Floyd crewmembers who will be working behind the scenes to help provide the perfect embodiment of the Pink Floyd live experience.



Information: www.aussiefloyd.com.

Tickets $49.50, $39.50, $29.50 (processing fees apply) at 717-534-3405 or hersheytheatre.com.

Eichelberger Performing Arts Center Announces CATS for Summer 2008 & Auditions

Eichelberger Performing Arts Center announces that they will present Andrew Lloyd Webber's famed musical CATS in Summer 2008.

The Center recently secured a contract to produce an area premiere of the popular Broadway musical and is wasting no time gearing up for the huge, lavish production. The first round of auditions will be held December 9 and 10 for CATS, as well as the current seasons' productions of A Chorus Line and Children of Eden, all directed by Chad-Alan Carr. Audition times for all three productions will be as follows: ages 4-12 at 5PM and ages 13-Adult at 7PM.

Performers should dress comfortably or in dance attire and be prepared to learn a song and dance from the show. Auditions are open to students currently enrolled in The Academy at Eichelberger as well as non-students. CATS and Children of Eden will be casting for all age groups; however, A Chorus Line will not be casting anyone under the age of 13. Call back auditions may be scheduled at a later date.

For more information, contact the Eichelberger's Administrative Offices at 717.632.9356 or visit www.TheEich.org. The 2007/08 Season sponsor is The Evening Sun; Eichelberger Productions Series sponsored by M&T Bank.

Harold Pinter's "Betrayal" at Open Stage

Open Stage of Harrisburg presents Harold Pinter's "Betrayal" through November 18. Betrayal is Pinter at his trenchant best. The play tells the story of Emma and Robert, and how Emma's affair with the couple's best friend, Jerry, comes to define their marriage. What sets this play apart from other tales of love triangles is Pinter's device of telling the story of this affair in reverse.

Artistic Director Donald L. Alsedek directs an experienced cast that features Lisa Haywood as Emma, Jon Liebetrau as Robert and Ethan Cadoff as Jerry. Both Liebetrau and Cadoff are members of Actors' Equity Association.

Tickets are $25 and $21 for seniors and students. Call 717-214-2787; www.openstagehbg.com.

Strand-Capitol to Hold Auditions for Capitol Jazz Jam

Experience some of the area's hottest school jazz groups in unbridled, high-energy performances which may include student instrumental soloists, vocalists and more in the first ever Capitol Jazz Jam, Nov. 9, 7:30 pm in the Capitol Theatre, 50 N. George St., York .

Auditions

Capitol Jazz Jam auditions are Nov. 3, 2:30 – 4 pm Inspire! Studio of the Arts, 53 North Main Street, Jacobus, for young jazz students to have this rare opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians in the Jazz Jam.

Interested York County student musicians under the age of 21 are invited to participate. Music selections for melody and an improvised solo should be chosen from one of the following: 1) Real Easy Book, Volume One, published by Sher Music, or 2) The Real Book.

A clinic with Curt Sipe, Kirk Reese, Steve Meashey and Jeff Stabley will preceed the auditions from 1:00-2:15 pm at Inspire! Call Inspire! Studio for the Arts at 717-428-1402 for audition details.

York Little Theatre Posts Audition Notices

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Auditions: November 26 or 27, 2007 @ 7PM
Performances: January 18- 20 and 24-27, 2008
Women's Ensemble
(*Mixed Ethnicities Preferred)

Based on author Eve Ensler's "Vagina Interviews' conducted with women from all around the world, this hilariously witty and moving collection of tales give voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant, brave and thoroughly human stories.

TWELFTH NIGHT

Auditions: December 10 or 11, 2007 @ 7PM
Performances: February 8-10 and 14-17, 2008
Cast Requirements: 12 Men, 3 Women,
Small Ensemble

To what lengths will love steer a man (or woman) when the forces of reason abandon body and soul? Orsino longs for the love of Olivia, who refuses any romantic proposals while in mourning. Shipwrecked twins, mistaken identities, disguises, love forsaken. Shakespeare's most brilliant comedy as his beloved characters spiral deep into a whirlpool driven by the madness of love.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Auditions: January 7 or 8, 2008 @ 6:30pm
Performances: March 7-9 and 14-16, 2008
Cast Requirements: 9 Men/Boys, 3 Women/Girls, Large Ensemble

D'Artagnan dreams of becoming a Musketeer but first he must survive an adventure that takes him across France and England. Along the way, he will encounter a beautiful spy who will stop at nothing to take her revenge upon him and the Three Musketeers. Intrigue, danger and combat will test the ties of loyalty to king and country in this exciting adventure tale.

TAKE ME OUT

Auditions: February 25 or 26, 2008 @ 7PM
Performances: April 4-6 and 10-13, 2008
Cast Requirements: 10 Men
(*Mixed Ethnicities Required)

This winner of the 2003 Tony Award tells the story of Darren Lemming, star center fielder of the world champion New York Empires, young rich, famous and so convinced of his popularity that when he casually announces he's gay, he assumes the news will be readily accepted by everyone. At times explosive, tender, funny and affectionate, the story follows the repercussions of breaking taboo in America's most cherished past time.

MAN OF LA MANCHA

Auditions: February 25 or 26, 2008 @ 7PM
Performances: April 25-27 and May 2-4, 2008
Cast Requirements 12 Men, 7 Women

A five-time-Tony-award –winning Broadway show with unforgettable songs (The Impossible Dream, Man of La Mancha) scores Cervantes

Classic tale of an aging dreamer who turns his back on the harsh realities of life to create a nobler and more chivalric world, seeking compassion not for himself, but for all people.

A PENNSYLVANIA ORIGINAL PLAY

Auditions: March 24 or 25, 2008 @ 7PM
Performances: May 9-11 and 15-18, 2008
Cast Requirements: Small Ensemble

York Little Theatre proudly continues its World-Premier production of an original PA play.

continued on page 28

Thanksgiving • Thursday, November 22

SOLID BLUES
An all-star night of Blues artists in their first-ever tour together!
MAVIS STAPLES
CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE
NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS
JOE KROWN
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 at 8 pm
Tickets $60 to $35
LOU DIAMOND PHILLIPS
Lerner & Loewe's
CAMELOT
TUESDAY - SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 2
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
HersheyTheatre.com or (717)534-3405
15 E. Caracas Ave.,
Hershey, PA 17033
HERSHEY THEATRE
Ample
FREE Parking
Lou Diamond Phillips Photo by Craig Schwartz

Winter Radio Theater Offers Alternative

Winter Radio Theater, the alternative theater for adults, is again performing.

In addition to show dates at Appalachian Brewing Company, 50 North Cameron Street in Harrisburg (the troupe's primary home since 2004), new dates have also just been announced for Bube's Brewery, 102 North Market Street in Mount Joy.

Schedule:

WINTER RADIO THEATER (twinbill):

Friar's Club Roast of Santa Claus (and other stocking stuffers) – collection of short skits.

It's a Wonderful Christmas Carol – a new and improved reprisal of last season's spoof.

Sunday December 2nd, 6:30 p.m. – Appalachian Brewing Company

Sunday, December 9th, 6:30 p.m. – Appalachian Brewing Company

Friday, December 28th, 10 p.m. – Bube's Brewery

All plays will be staged the old-fashioned radio way with no props, no costumes and live sound effects, and performed by a cast that includes area actors, performance artists, and on-air (and non on-air) radio talent.

Admission for all performances is $5.00 at the door. Food-drive donations will also be collected (at the ABC shows only). .

All shows conceived and written by Randy Gross, with creative contributions by Gary Barnes, Jim Cook, Barbara DeCesare, Lauren Gross, Mike Horn, Samuel Ridout, Bill Roddey, and Julia Tilley.

Caution: these shows are for mature audiences only.

Info: Randy Gross, 717-732-8167; randy.gross@yahoo.com

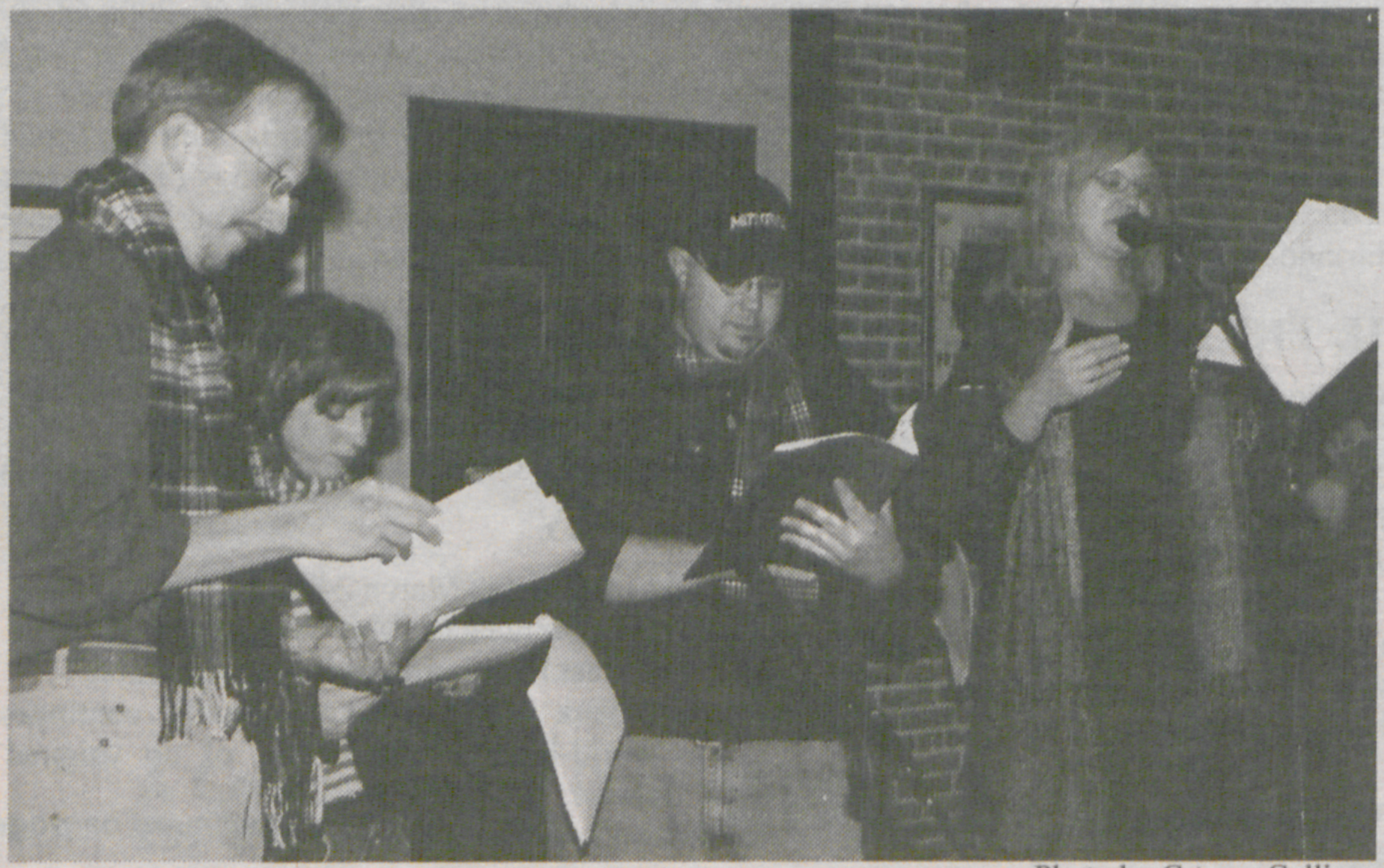


Photo by George Gallion

Winter Radio Theatre–Left to right, **Mike Horn, Amy Warner, Eric Weiss, Lauren Gross**.

THEATRE
ROUNDUP

York Little Theatre continued

ALEXANDER , AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY

Auditions: April 28 or 29, 2008 @6:30PM

Performances: June 20-22 and 27-29, 2008

Cast Requirements: Small Ensemble

Alexander is having a bad day to be quite honest, it's a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Judith Viorst sets Alexander's rather trying life to music and brings to the stage one of America's feistiest characters.

DREAMGIRLS

Auditions: May 12 or May 13, 2008

Performances: July 18-20 and July 24-27, 2008

Cast Requirements: 4 Men, 4 Women, Large Ensemble (*Mixed Ethnicities Required*)

Dreamgirls sings a tale of dreams, stardom, and the price of success in the cutthroat recording industry. Effie, Lorrell, and Deena are about to find out what it means to have their dreams come true as they are propelled into the spotlight. Soon, the girls find their bid for the big time taking priority over personal friendship. As the crossover act continues to dominate the airwaves the girls begin to realize that the cost of fame may be higher than any of them ever anticipated.

York Little Theatre is located at 27 South Belmont Street, York, PA at exit 19A of I-83, just south of Market Street. YLT is located in Spring Garden Township. York Little Theatre is a member of The Cultural Alliance of York.

Hall & Oates Performs at Hershey Theatre

Building on the success of their first-ever holiday album, Philly natives Daryl Hall and John Oates perform everyone's favorite holiday songs at Hershey Theatre Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Home for Christmas features the world's best-selling musical duo giving new and original life to traditional holiday anthems such as "The First Noel," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "The Christmas Song," "Mary Had a Baby," "Oh Holy Night" and a re-recording of "Jingle Bell Rock," a promo-only single that was a hit for the duo for many years.

Tickets: $75, $60, $49.50 (processing fees apply) at 717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com.

Hershey Theatre Classic Film Series

Hershey Theatre's classic film series continues. Classic film lovers sent in their favorite film titles; the season is built from their choices. The season started with the 1962 classic *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Nov. 3 Seven Brides

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers screens Nov. 3. This 1954 musical was directed by Stanley Donen, and stars Howard Keel, Jane Powell, Jeff Richards, Russ Tamblyn, Tommy Rall, Virginia Gibson, Julie Newmar, Ruta Lee and Matt Mattox. The film won an Oscar for Best Scoring.

Jan. 19 Monty Python

The new year starts with *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* Jan. 19. Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones directed this zany 1975 British classic. The cast includes Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin.

Feb. 5-10 Spamalot

Holy Grail will be shown in anticipation of the Broadway musical *SPAMALOT*, coming to Hershey Feb. 5-10.

Feb. 16 Chocolat

February will highlight romance with a cocoa flair, when *Chocolat* plays on February 16. Lasse Hallstrom directed the film with a cast that featured Juliette Binoche, Alfred Molina, Johnny Depp and Judi Dench.

March 15 Harvey

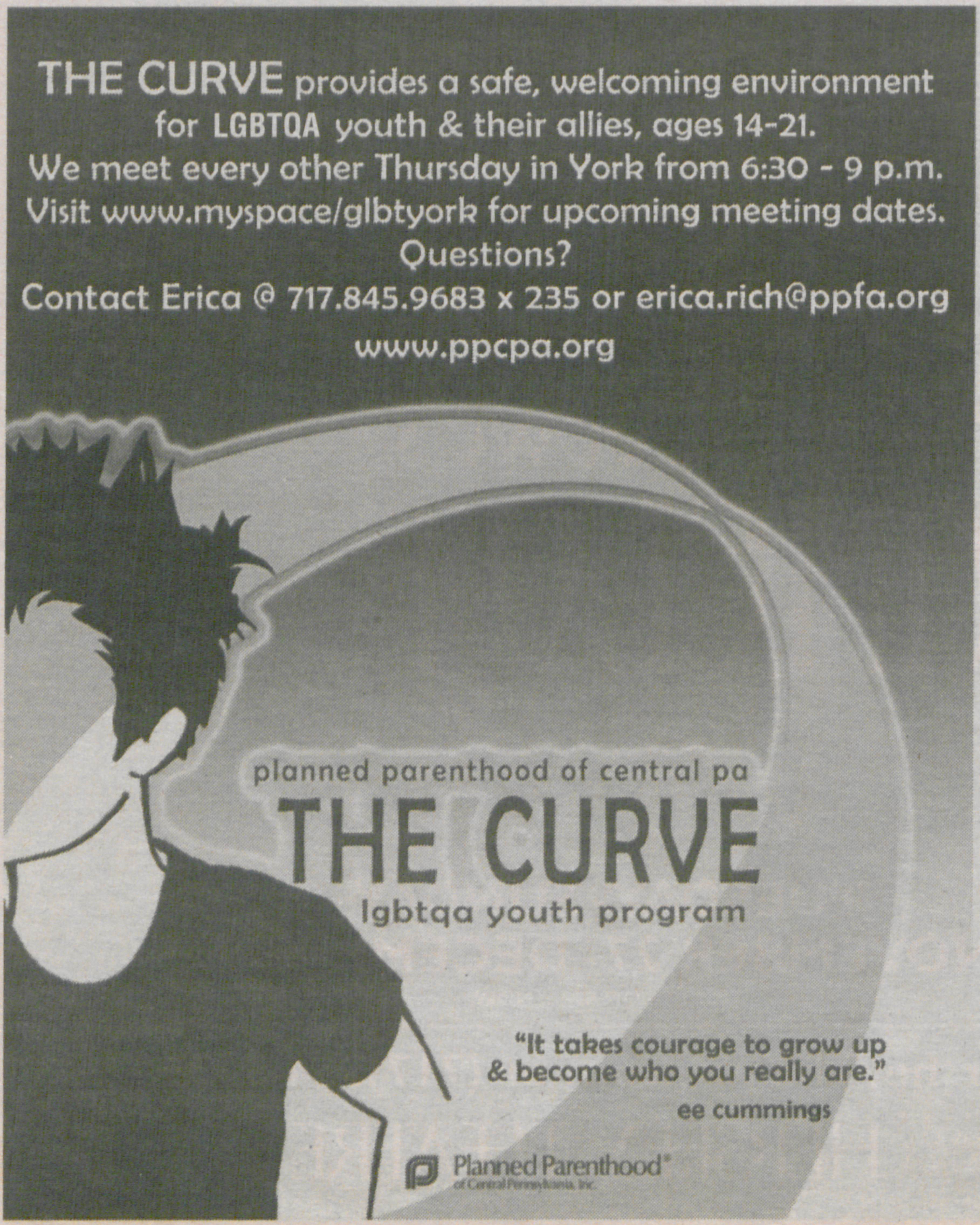
On March 15, the 1950 perennial favorite *Harvey* will be shown. The cast includes James Stewart, Josephine Hull, Peggy Dow, Charles Drake. Henry Koster directed the film, which won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for Hull.

April 26 From Here to Eternity

Finally, the 1953 classic *From Here to Eternity* will be shown on April 26. Director Fred Zinnemann had a dream cast with Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Donna Reed, Frank Sinatra, Ernest Borgnine, Jack Warden. The film won multiple Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor and Actress (for Sinatra and Reed) and Best Direction for Zinnemann.

7:30 PM, $7

The Classic Films are shown at 7:30 p.m. All tickets are $7.00 and are general admission only. Tickets: Hershey Theatre Box Office, opens 6:30 p.m. the evening of the film. A concert on the theatre's historic four-manual Aeolian-Skinner organ precedes the films at 7 p.m. Information: 717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com.


THE CURVE provides a safe, welcoming environment for LGBTQA youth & their allies, ages 14-21.
We meet every other Thursday in York from 6:30 - 9 p.m.
Visit www.myspace/glbtyork for upcoming meeting dates.
Questions?
Contact Erica @ 717.845.9683 x 235 or erica.rich@ppfa.org
www.ppcpa.org

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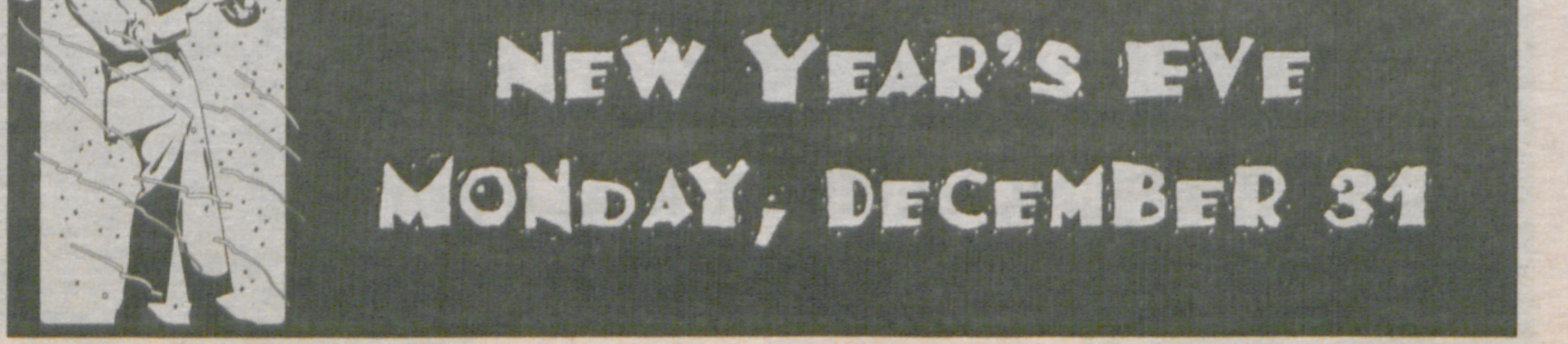

NEW YEAR'S EVE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

Best Burger!

Blue Bistro & Wine Bar Opens to Rave Reviews

BLUE
Bistro
& Wine Bar

Blue Bistro, 1311 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, opened to rave reviews.

"What a great place, so friendly and warm and such good food," said diners Ted and Bob, neighborhood residents who were anxious to try out the new establishment. When Central Voice made a visit, the place was nicely filed with neighborhood residents, some well-known local movers and shakers, and a few out-of-town players who said they were told to watch for the place's opening. "I'm from Washington, DC and Blue Bistro is as nice as any Adams-Morgan place," said one happy guest.

A classic bistro with an eclectic menu, owner and chef/entertainer at heart Pam Minhas offers smaller plates, tapas style dishes at the bar and full dinners. Cocktail high tables with seats are in and near the bar as well as a traditional dining room space, all in one cozy setting.

Chef Matt Poorman's open kitchen window space offers a bar side treat as he, a Culinary Institute of America graduate, prepares dishes.

Hours: 4-10 pm daily. Late Night Menu 10-midnight. Brunch 10 am to 4 pm Sat. and Sun. 909-6500; wwwbluewinebar.com

FAVS

Wine List – More than 100 bottles & 26 By-the-glass

The Bistro Burger – 8-ounce, hand-made, memorable

Pick & Mix Cheese & Meat Plates – Tasty selections of foreign meats & cheeses

Belgian Dark Chocolate Dessert Fondue – Banana, strawberry, cake cubes

Blue Bistro & Wine Bar owner **Pam Minhas** and Central Voice Sales Executive **Kristen Richards** enjoy the friendly environment.

Oxford Hall Celtic Shop Expands Food Products

New Cumberland's Avatar's Natural Food Store at 321 Bridge St. recently closed it's doors. Oxford Hall Celtic Shop owner, Cindy Washburn, 315 Bridge St., recently began carrying some the organic foods

previously sold at Avatar's. Washburn's Celtic shop now carries raw milk and cream, cheese, Big Sky Breads and granola, free-range eggs from an Amish Lancaster dairy, Suneen Organic/vegetarian sandwiches, humus and salads. Washburn hopes to continue adding health/organic foods to her food line which already consists of imported British and Irish foods, teas, scones, bangers, pudding, Irish brown bread, Welsh Cakes and meat pies. Coming soon is their own store brand eggs.

What If...Cafe Still Open

About a year ago, readers may have heard What If...Cafe, 3426 N. 6th St, Harrisburg was sold and closed. Not true. What If...Cafe is still serving consistently fresh, quality entrees and desserts for lunch and dinner, just off the beaten path from city limits. The Café's hours have changed: Lunch - M-F, 11-3 & Dinner -Thurs, Fri & Sat, 5-10. Reservations suggested. BYOB. They miss seeing all of you and look forward to serving you soon. 717-238-1155; www.whatifdining.com.

Buy Your Food Based On What IS in It!

By Deb Bixler

Most people buy food for what is not in it as opposed for what is in it. This is a terrible mistake and is a sabotage to your system. When you look at the label, which is designed to get you to buy the product, and look for fat-free, sugar-free, carb-free or any other combinations you are making a mistake that is reducing your bodies ability to rejuvinate, and replace damaged cells. Humans need fat, protein, and carbohydrates to perform all the bodily functions properly. Many food labels say carb free, fat free, protein free, lactose free, sugar free, calorie free, gluten free, soy free, and nut free. When they take out all of those foods, what do you think they put in? The answer is chemicals, and non-food-food-additives. Chemicals are addictive and have no nutritional value! The solution to this is to buy foods based on the quality ingredients that are in it as opposed to what is not in it. Go to the back of the package first and find quality ingredients in the ingredients list. After you have selected real food choices as opposed to chemicals, then look at the nutritional analysis to determine your personal nutritional needs.

Deb Bixler creates food solutions that are fun, fast and healthy enough to keep up with the 21 st lifestyle. For more tips on increasing your metabolism and other healthy living skills go to: www.WowYouAreReallyLucky.com

Green Street Vegetarian Club Offers Cookbook

"A Short Course in Culinary Experiments" is not just another vegetarian cook book. Author Muralidharan emphasizes preparing simple vegetarian food that is tasty and urges those who prepare the various dishes to look at the ingredients used as something valuable/unique as they experiment with various spices and methods to try and make the perfect Indian meal. The author has a way with words as well as recipes and this book would be a good addition to your collection of cook books or make a great Christmas gift. Available at group rates for $20 which includes shipping, tax, etc. Marshall will be bringing a copy to club functions for the next 2-3 months so be sure and look over this rare but well done Indian cook book.

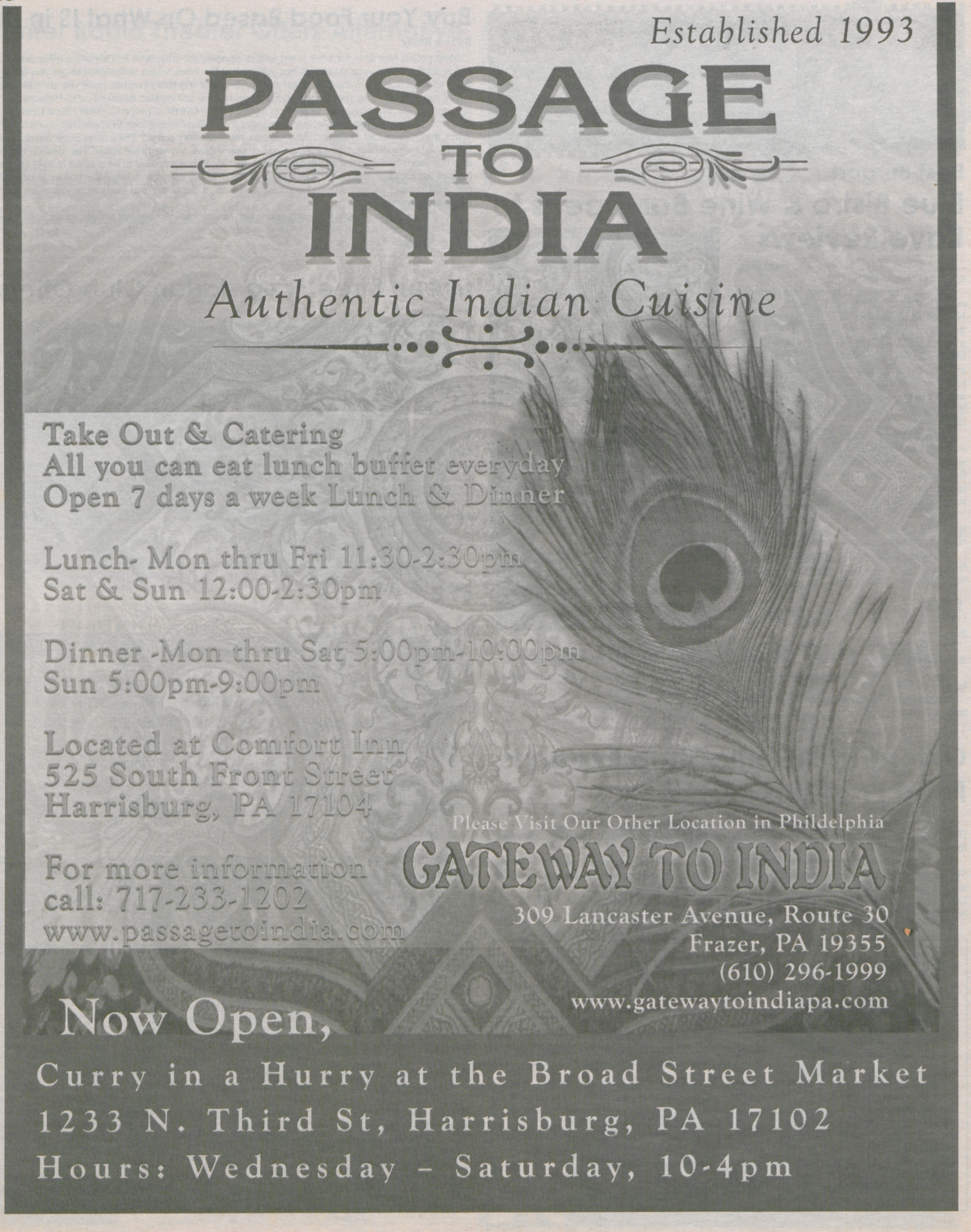
Wegmans Harrisburg

6416 Carlisle Pike, Suite 2000
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
(717) 791-4500

Open 24 hours

The Wegmans Harrisburg offers:

Catering - (717) 791-4510
Coin Redemption Self Service
Complements
Kosher Deli
Market Cafe
MoneyGram / Money Orders
Nature's Marketplace
Patisserie
Pharmacy - (717) 791-4545
Hours - Mon - Fri: 8:30 AM - 9:00PM
Sat: 8:30AM - 6:00PM
Sun: 9:00AM - 4:00PM.
Photo Finishing
Pizza - (717) 791-4525
Sub - (717) 791-4530
Sushi Bar
WKids Fun Center
Wi-Fi Internet Access
Wokery



Established 1993

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Authentic Indian Cuisine

Take Out & Catering
All you can eat lunch buffet everyday
Open 7 days a week Lunch & Dinner

Lunch- Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30pm
Sat & Sun 12:00-2:30pm

Dinner -Mon thru Sat 5:00pm-10:00pm
Sun 5:00pm-9:00pm

Located at Comfort Inn
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Harrisburg, PA 17104

For more information
call: 717-233-1202
www.passagetoindia.com

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GATEWAY TO INDIA

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www.gatewaytoindiapa.com

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Deb Bixler Wins Gay Games Gold Medal

Along with the estimated $50-80 million in tourism trade that the 2006 Gay Games brought to Chicago, the event also brought Deb Bixler. She won a gold Medal.

The local businesswoman has always been alert to a healthy lifestyle.

"Prior to starting training as a body builder, I had always focused on being healthy through eating right, moderate exercise and active life style. I never really was a sports enthusiast nor did I have a structured exercise program.

Bixler had always wanted to compete in body building. She took action four years ago. Her business takes her to Chicago on business every July. "When I heard that the 2006 Gay Games were in Chicago the week after my visit, I decided the time was right to become a competitive body builder," she explains.

Bixler reveals to Central Voice her training secrets.

Q. When you competed in the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, how long did you prepare? How did you prepare?

A. I started training as a natural body builder when I was 51 years old. I got a personal trainer, studied body building and body building nutritional requirements. I also went to competitions as an observer for about 18 months prior to my first competition. I have been going to the gym three days weekly for about two hours each session ever since then. I walk a fast mile daily and 2.5 miles 3-4 times weekly. My last eight weeks prior to a competition involves four sessions weekly as well as a restricted calorie diet to remove excess body fat so the muscles are visible. I also do daily posing practices of about an hour.

Q. What was it like winning a gold medal on the women's bodybuilding, physique competition?

A. It was exciting and happened exactly as I expected it would. I had used visually imagery as part of my preparation. I knew all along, that I would win.

Where the World Meets

Q. How many women from around the world competed?

A. There were more than 25 women.

Q. How much did competing cost you?

A. Body building is a large investment both locally and at the Gay Games. I do not know if they allow sponsorships. In general physique competitors, participants may have sponsors on the pro-level. I only compete in amateur natural competition. I have paid for everything myself and it is impossible to evaluate the cost of the competition. Taking into consideration, trainers, competition fees, affiliate membership dues, supplements, posing suit, gym fees, and more, I am sure I have spent in excess of $5,000 in my body building hobby over the three years since starting.

Q. We've heard that body building is not healthy. We know you are focused on health. What do you think of the reputation body builders have of using drugs and abusing their bodies?

A. In the past and still today, some body builders sacrifice health for muscle mass. Natural body building is a very focused sport which requires determination and commitment. The physique competition at the Gay Games was the only competition at the Games that were urine tested. Natural physique competitors are in tune with good choices and treat their bodies like a gift from God.

Bixler, Central Voice writer and member of the Centreal PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, recently wrote and illustrated "*My Two Aunts*" as a tool for her family to help explain to Deb's nieces and nephews about her relationship. She is a healthy, coach, educator, and as a public speaker she advocates health life styles. Her mission is to improve the quality of family life now and for future generations through better food and living choices. She is also a trained chef with an associate's degree from The Culinary Institute of America. Contact: 717.751.2793; DebBixler@FoodSmart.tv; www.DebBixler.com

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Nov 3 2007	9:00P	MAX JONES AND THE JOYRIDERS
Nov 9 2007	8:00P	NATE MYERS AND THE ACES
Nov 16 2007	9:00P	FLINT ZEIGLER W/CREEKSIDE SOUL
Nov 17 2007	9:00P	THREE TRAINS COMIN'
Nov 23 2007	9:00P	BROOKS WEST AND TBA
Nov 24 2007	9:00P	BATIDA!
DEC 21 2007	9:00P	KEN SWARTZ

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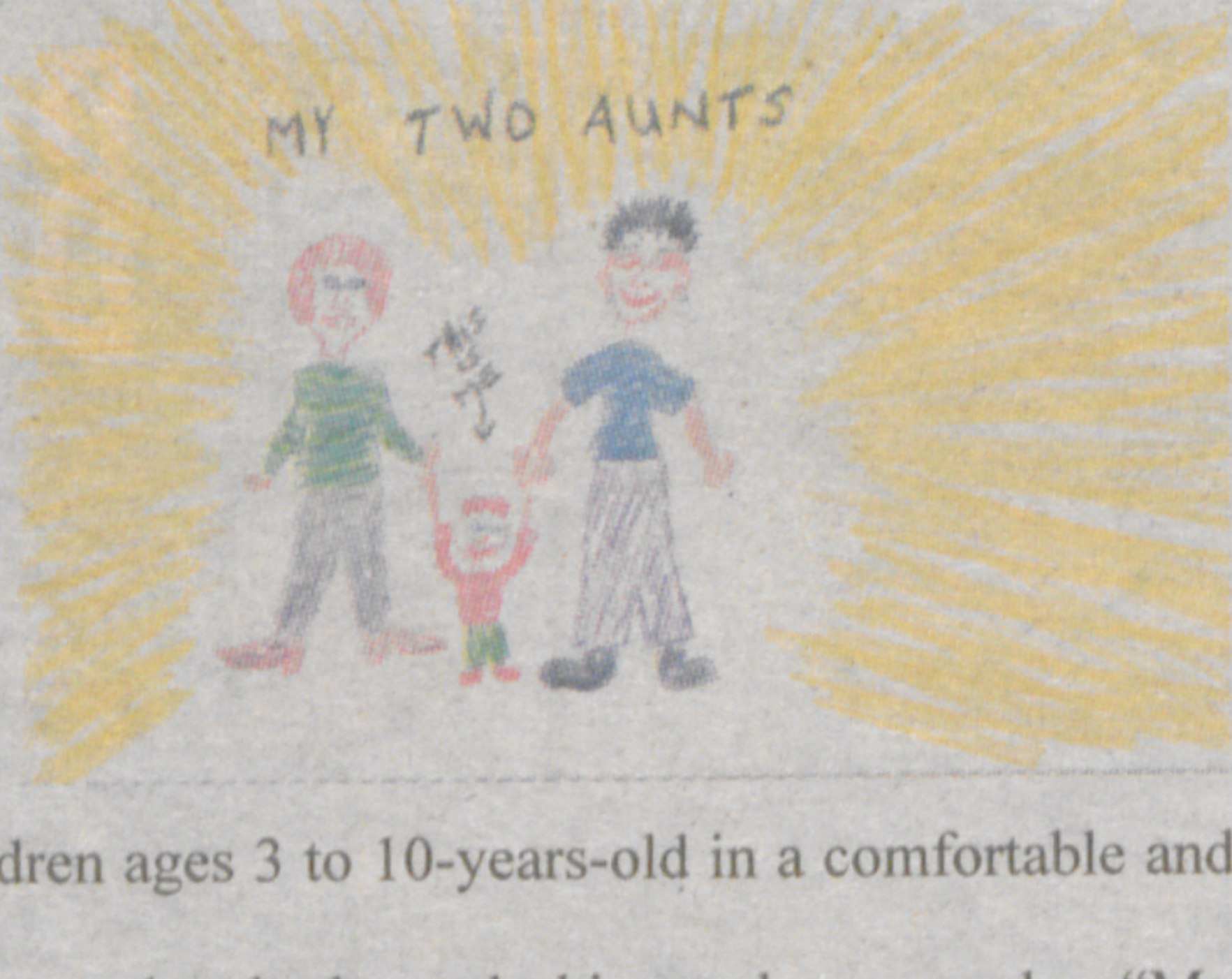
Central Voice Writer

Chamber Member Publishes Children's Diversity Book



Deb Bixler, Central Voice writer and member of the Centreal PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, recently wrote and illustrated "My Two Aunts" as a tool for her family to help explain to Deb's nieces and nephews about her relationship.

Written and illustrated from the perspective of a 5-year-old, the book teaches children diversity through explaining same-sex relationships. This children's book provides an easy way to discuss the topic of gay and lesbian relationships with children ages 3 to 10-years-old in a comfortable and non-threatening manner

The book is a perfect gift for children, parents or people who know lesbian and gay couples. "My Two Aunts" can be ordered at bookstores or purchased on line: www.MyTwoAunts.com. More about the author: www.DebBixler.com

Outing Riley

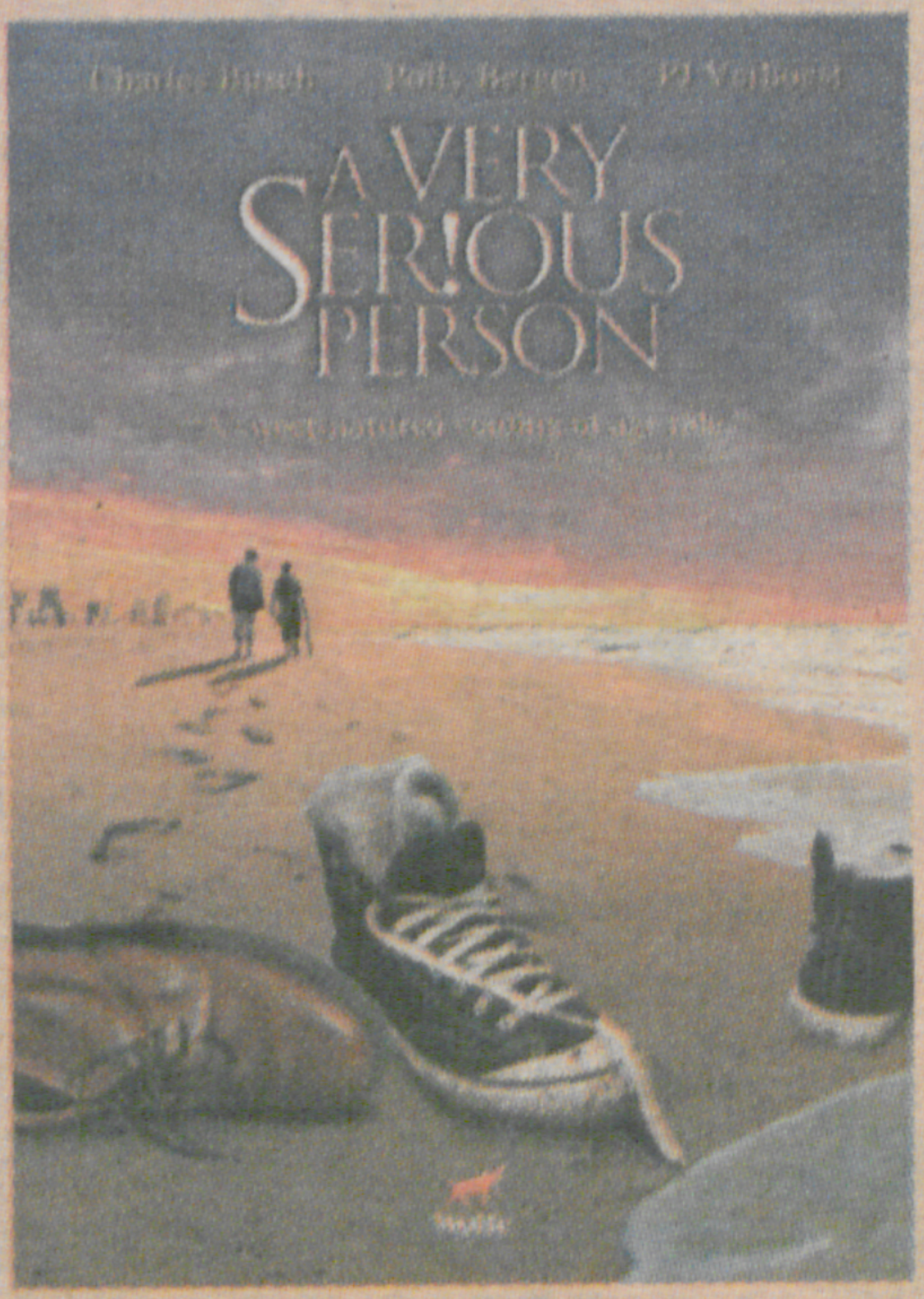
Winner of this year's NY Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Outing Riley is about Bobby (Pete Jones), the youngest boy in an Irish Catholic family. Bobby is gay and the film covers his coming out to his brothers and the family's way of dealing with the news. Bobby is just a regular guy, loves beer, the Chicago Cubs – and his BF (Michael McDonald). His family thinks he's kidding about being a Mo.

Pete Jones Nathan Fillion Michael McDonald
OUTING RILEY
One of these brothers is not like the others . . .
"Intelligent, nicely paced script sports lots of crowd-pleasing zingers."
Variety
Prebook Date: September 18, 2007 Street Date: October 30, 2007

DVD Reviews

A VERY SERIOUS PERSON

Jan (Charles Busch), an itinerant male nurse from Denmark, takes a new job with Mrs. A (Polly Bergen), a terminally ill Manhattan woman raising her parentless thirteen-year-old grandson, Gil (PJ Verhoest). The emotionally reserved Jan finds himself oddly cast as a mentor to Gil in having to prepare the sensitive boy for life with his cousins in Florida after his grandmother's death. A deep friendship grows.



FOLLOW MY VOICE with the music of HEDWIG

One record producer, the creators of a cult film classic and some of the most influential indie rockers record a benefit album for a controversial LGBTQ youth center in New York City. "Follow My Voice: With the Music of Hedwig" documents the stories of four teens, echoing their struggles and aspirations with the music from the rock drama "Hedwig and the Angry Inch". Special performances by Ben Folds, Rufus Wainwright, The Breeders, Sleater-Kinney, The Polyphonic Spree – and suprise guests!

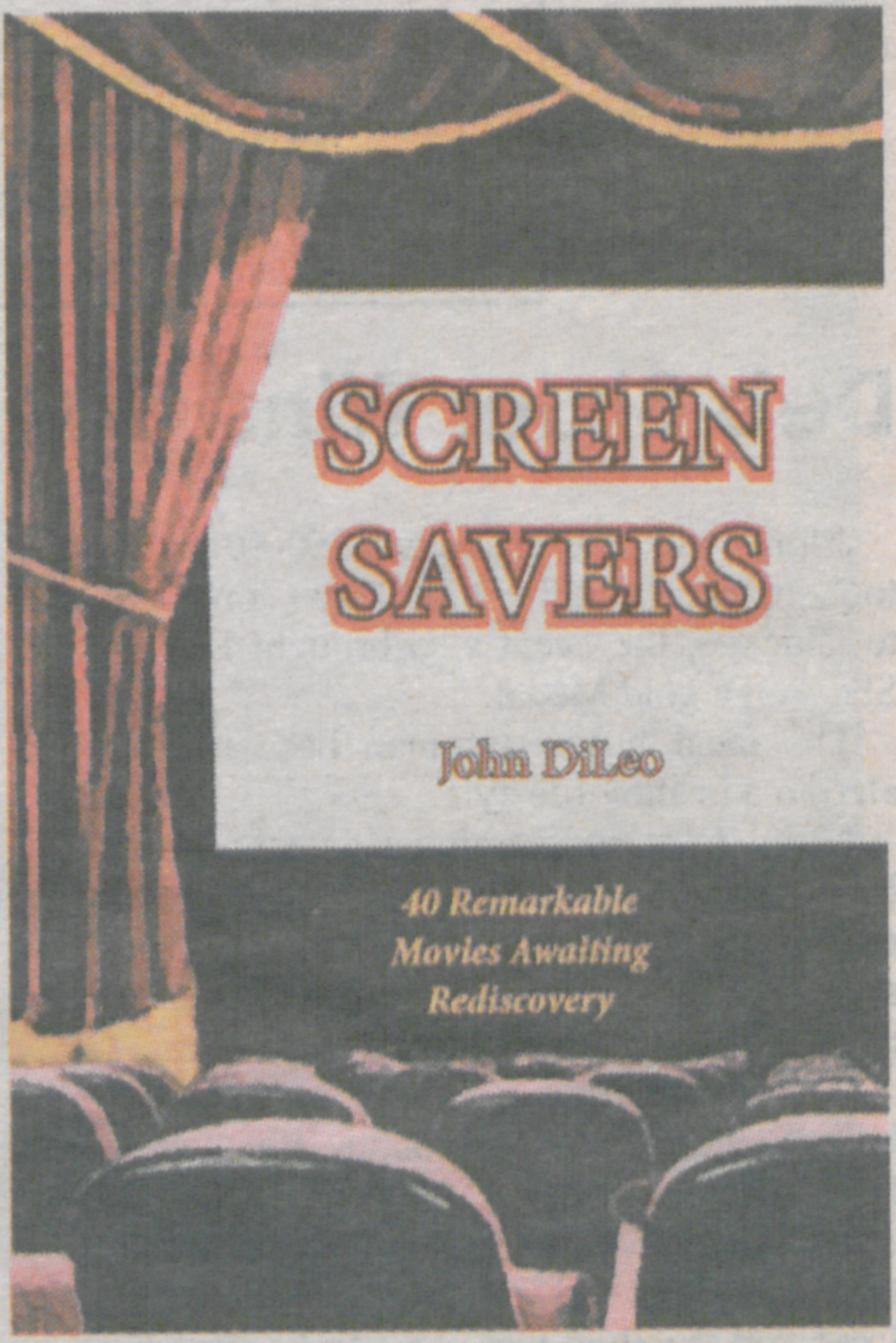
THE GYMNYST

The talented Jane Hawkins (Dreya Weber, Lovely & Amazing) was an impressive gymnast at the top of her game until a devastating injury ended her career. She maintains a tedious job as a massage therapist and a loveless marriage. A chance meeting sets Jane on a new path: performing a CirqueDu Soleil style aerial act with a mysterious and beautiful dancer named Serena (Addie Yungmee). Jane is distressed by her lack of children while Serena is a closeted lesbian who tackles stereotypes with being an adopted Korean daughter of Jewish parents. This is a story about hope and taking the necessary risks to fully become yourself.

THE GYMNAST

Central Voice Writer

John DiLeo Publishes "Screen Savers: 40 Remarkable Movies Awaiting Rediscovery"



Screen Savers: 40 Remarkable Movies Awaiting Rediscovery puts the spotlight on these and other superb yet underappreciated movies spanning the twentieth century. Essential stars and directors are represented here, not for their undisputed marvels but for other equally wonderful films that warrant overdue or renewed recognition: *Cover Girl, They Came to Cordura, Portrait of Jennie, The Seventh Cross, The Lusty Men, Hail the Conquering Hero, Rambling Rose, Time after Time,* and many others.

Author John DiLeo offers full-bodied appraisals of each of his selections, breezily combining scholarly acumen with a film fanatic's passion. DiLeo uses his lively, accessible style and sharp, insightful critical eye, venturing beyond obvious choices and whetting our appetites to see these vital movies. Be they underseen, dismissed, or taken-for-granted in their day, the films in *Screen Savers* deserve a place of honor in our film heritage.

DiLeo's book looks at classics in a new light.

Boris Karloff will forever be Frankenstein's Monster, but is that any reason for us to overlook his later great horror film *Isle of the Dead* (1945)? An Oscar was George Clooney's reward for *Syriana* (2005), but isn't the underrated war film *Three Kings* (1999) still his best movie? *Woman of the Year* (1942) introduced the team of Tracy and Hepburn, yet didn't their later *Pat and Mike* (1952) resoundingly surpass it?

Jeff Bridges has long been one of our best actors, so why didn't anyone take notice of his sleeper *Bad Company* (1972)? The lasting impact of *Psycho* (1960) unfairly overshadows Anthony Perkins's great work in the darkly comic thriller *Pretty Poison* (1968), while Stanley Kubrick's later work keeps his terrific caper *The Killing* (1956) from attaining classic status. Can you really say you love Audrey Hepburn if you haven't seen her at her most radiant in Stanley Donen's gem *Two for the Road* (1967)?

DiLeo's book is now available Barnes & Noble and Borders stores and online, and through Amazon.com.

Gay Games VII Chicago 2006 Photo Book Published

More than 1,000 images in new 4-color Book

CHICAGO -- The excitement and joy of the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago are captured in a new 208-page 4-color glossy photo book available online from the Web site lulu.com. The book features more than 1,000 images of the sports, culture and ceremonies of Gay Games VII, which were held July 15-22, 2006.

Several dozen professional photographers donated their services to cover the Gay Games, contributing more than 60,000 images to the Gay Games photo archives. These images were then culled to 11,000 and were made available in 2006 as downloads on the Gay Games Web site. Now, the best of those images are included in the book "Gay Games VII: Where the World Meets."

The book is written by Gay Games VII Co Vice-Chair Tracy Baim, who is publisher of Windy City Media Group in Chicago. WCMG and its weekly newspaper, Windy City Times, coordinated the Gay Games photo project, and WCMG Art Director Kirk Williamson designed the book.

"We are very excited to support the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) and its ongoing mission," said Baim. "All proceeds from the sale will go to the important work of the FGG. We wanted a book to show off the amazing contributions of thousands of athletes, cultural participants, volunteers, board, staff, sponsors, donors and more. It is an added bonus that it can benefit the FGG."

The featured photographers in "Gay Games VII: Where the World Meets" are Steve Becker, Kat Fitzgerald, Amy Moseley and Patsy Lynch, who took the majority of the images. There are dozens of other professional and amateur photographers included, with images from all 31 sports and dozens of cultural events and ceremonies of Gay Games VII.

"Gay Games VII" is a perfect gift for anyone who has ever attended a Gay Games, or for those who want to see more about events that have impacted hundreds of thousands of people.

The book has an overview of the past seven Gay Games, including images of the first event in 1982 with co-founder Dr. Tom Waddell. There are also special photos taken by internationally renowned photographer Victor Skrebneski of amateur and professional Gay Games athletes. These include Esera Tuaolo, Leigh-Ann Naidoo and Matthew Cusick. Some photos were taken in conjunction with the April 2006 100 Champions weekend, which honored well-known LGBT sports figures and allies. Steve Becker also took special photos during the 100 Champions weekend, including of sports legend Greg Louganis.

Especially memorable are images from the Opening and Closing ceremonies at Soldier Field and Wrigley Field. There are photos of the featured performers and speakers, including Mayor Richard M. Daley, Cyndi Lauper, Megan Mullally, Margaret Cho, Andy Bell, Heather Small, Jody Watley, ANT, Showtime's 'The L Word' cast members, Ari Gold, and many more.

The Gay Games decided to go with an online publishing format to allow for more creativity and flexibility. In using lulu.com, the process is similar to ordering any book online, and takes just a few days. The book is available for $49 plus shipping, or as a PDF download for $19.

ORDERING INFO: See lulu.com/content/1179609 or go to lulu.com and search for

continued on NEXT page

BEATBOX

By DJ Jimmy Newsum

THE EVENT
TONY MORAN

The Event

Tony Moran

(TruTone)

First there were the internet rumors ("He's working on a new compilation album!"). Then the remixes of "Walk Away" featuring Kristine W. surfaced. Finally, after months of waiting, fans are able to experience "The Event," Tony Moran's most ambitious compilation project to date with a whopping 24 tracks. Moran released this album the hard way — he did it himself. Despite painstaking hours of recording, remixing and producing, the resulting two-CD limited edition is a testament to the handsome DJ's staying power in the fickle world of dance music. Miss W's "Walk Away" is the lead single, and is already rising quickly up the Billboard charts. But Moran also enlists other big vocal divas. Vicki Shepard and Jeanie Tracy team up on the infectious "I Got a Feelin'," Danielle Bollinger lends her clear, crisp vocals to "Surrender Me," Martha Wash blasts her way through "Keep Your Body Workin'" and Deborah Cox remakes Chic's "Everybody Dance". This is a must-have for ever dance music fan. *Go to djtonymoran.com for more info.*

The Healing Machine

Matthew Duffy

Matthew Duffy's debut album, HERE I COME, created waves in the global club community three years ago, ushering in the electro sound that has since taken over the world floors. Led by the Billboard Dance break out hit *Electric Shock*, and then *Little Bird*, the adorable out-artist was able to combine old school flava house with acoustic and electric guitars, eastern instrumentation, mega harmonies, electro madness and strong pop melodies. The album established Duffy as a revolutionary artist, not afraid to shake things up on the playground. Now he returns with his second album, inspired from a wide array of musical genres including house, new wave, rock, world music, pop, and underground. Duffy wrote nine of the ten songs ("The Wind" was written by legendary rocker Cat Stevens) and produced all ten tracks. The first release on the new album will be *#1 Enemy*, a compelling electro rock single that points the finger at the people responsible for the current volatile state of the world. The Healing Machine is a musical masterpiece that proves there are still young artists in America who think and are not afraid to fight convention. *Go to MatthewDuffy.com for more info.*

NEW YORK CLUB ANTHEMS
MIXED BY HECTOR FONSECA

New York Club Anthems 2

Mixed by Hector Fonseca

(Star69)

New York Club Anthems Volume 2, the follow up to the hugely successful New York Club Anthems vol. 1, takes us deeper into the underground with hard tribal beats and dark electro baselines. This second installment has been mixed by the highly successful and talented young Star 69 DJ Hector Fonseca. Fonseca combines dirty electro bass lines with a big room feel, artfully blending all of the essential components that comprise today's New York City nightlife. Included are brand new tracks with classic twists like DJ Touvan "Beat Machine", The Starkillers "Scream", and arguable the all-time biggest dance classic hit "Drama". Tribal fans will enjoy FC Nond "Control," Michael M. "The Beat," and a pounding dance floor anthem from Suzanne Palmer "Free My Love". The highlight of the album is a new track featuring the legendary New York icon Amanda Lepore, "My Pussy." If you haven't experienced New York's nightlife recently, this album is the trip you've been putting off for way too long. *Go to HectorFonseca.com for more info.*

BEARFORCE1

BearForce1

BearForce1

(C+R Records)

Bearforce1, the world's first bearband (like a boyband, but with bears), launched an internet bonanza when their hilarious video first premiered on You-Tube. Celeb blogger Perez Hilton called them "the best thing ever" and after close to a million hits, Sony BMG signed them to a worldwide record deal. The result is "BearForce1", a colorfully up-tempo medley of all of our favorite disco hits including Sylvester's "Mighty Real" and Donna Summer's "I feel Love". Though they appear to be a pastel-and-chino clad Miami brand of bear, the band is one part Belfast, three parts Amsterdam and all really gay – the way we love them! *Go to Bearforce1.nl for more info.*

"Gay Games" under books.

Contacts: Kevin Boyer, All Terrain Public Relations, (312) 421-7672 x 41, kevin.boyer@allterrain.net; Doug Litwin, FGG, (415) 641-5211; Tracy Baim, Gay Games Chicago, (773) 387-2394, editor@windycitymediagroup.com

About Gay Games VII

Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival took place 15-22 July 2006. With 11,750 athletes competing in 31 sports, the weeklong event included band, cheerleading and color guard performances, chorus, an ancillary arts festival, and a series of community-organized social events and parties. The opening ceremony was held 15 July at Soldier Field, the lakefront home stadium of American-style football's Chicago Bears. Closing ceremony was 22 July at Wrigley Field, the home of Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs.

Global sponsors of Gay Games VII included Lexiva; Logo; PlanetOut/ Gay.com; Sirius Satellite Radio; Walgreens; Centaur Entertainment; Fleishman Hillard International Communications; Orbitz; McKnight Kurland Baccelli; The New York Times; Olivia Cruises & Resorts; Pride Nation Network; Windy City Media Group; Absolut Vodka; American Airlines; Apogee Strategies; Athletico; Chicago Free Press; Chicago Sun-Times; Ernst & Young; GLAAD; Genre; Human Rights Campaign; Lambda Legal Defense; QTG-Quaker/Tropicana/Gatorade; Sydney New Mardi Gras; Mate Magazine; Pink Magazine; RCN; and Roosevelt University. Gay Games VII had almost 400 total sponsors.

About The Gay Games

The Gay Games was conceived by Dr. Tom Waddell, an Olympic decathlete, and was first held in San Francisco in 1982 with 1,350 participants. Subsequent Gay Games have been held in San Francisco (1986; 3,500 participants), Vancouver (1990; 7,300 participants), New York (1994; 12,500 participants), Amsterdam (1998; 13,000 participants), and Sydney (2002; 11,000 participants). Gay Games VIII will take place in Cologne, Germany.

The Federation of Gay Games is the international governing body that perpetuates the quadrennial Gay Games and promotes the event's founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best (tm). For more information, visit GayGames.org.

"Gay Games", "Federation of Gay Games", the interlocking circles device, and the phrase "Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best" are trademarks of the Federation of Gay Games, Inc. Trademarks are registered in the USA, Canada, Benelux, the UK, and Australia.

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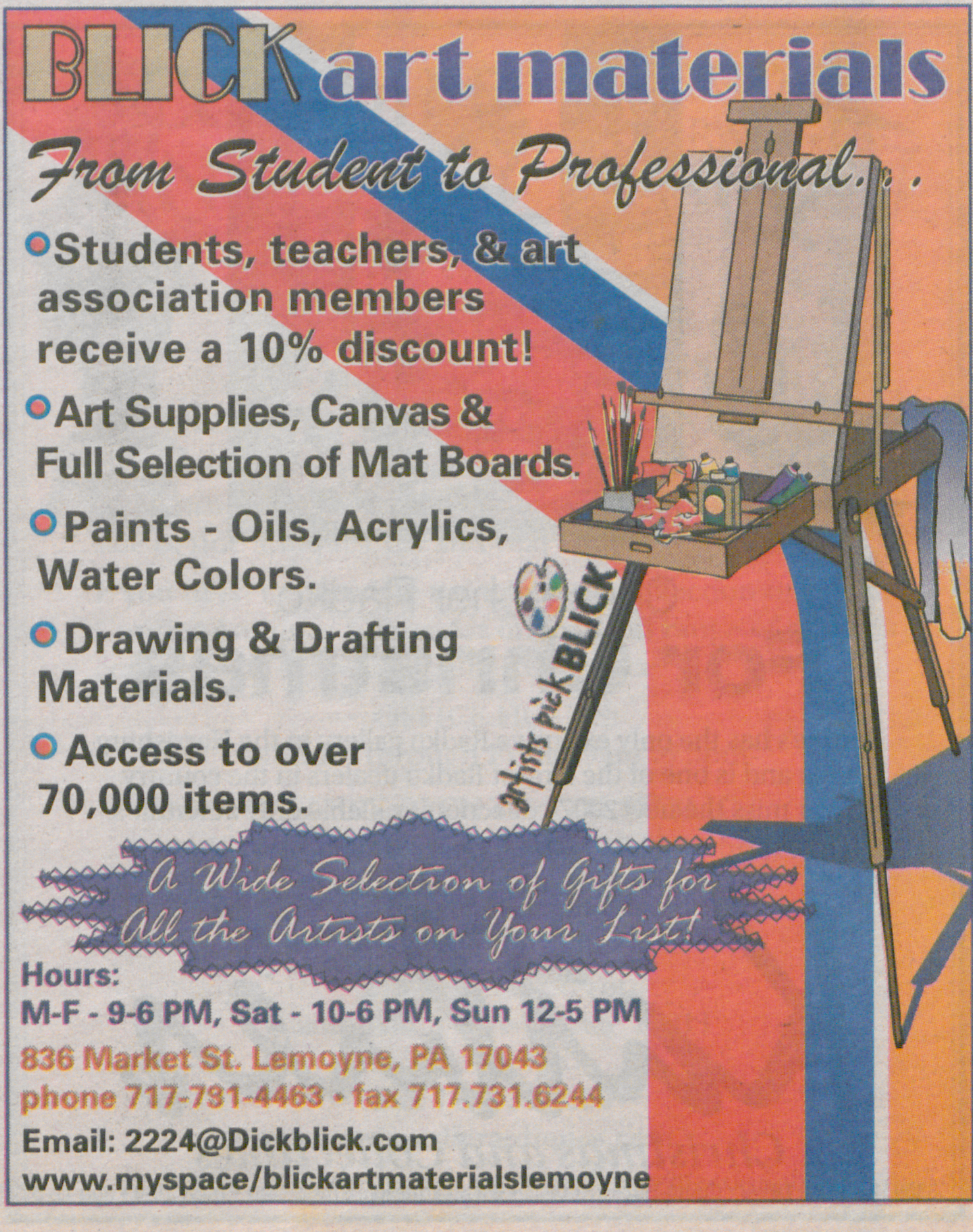
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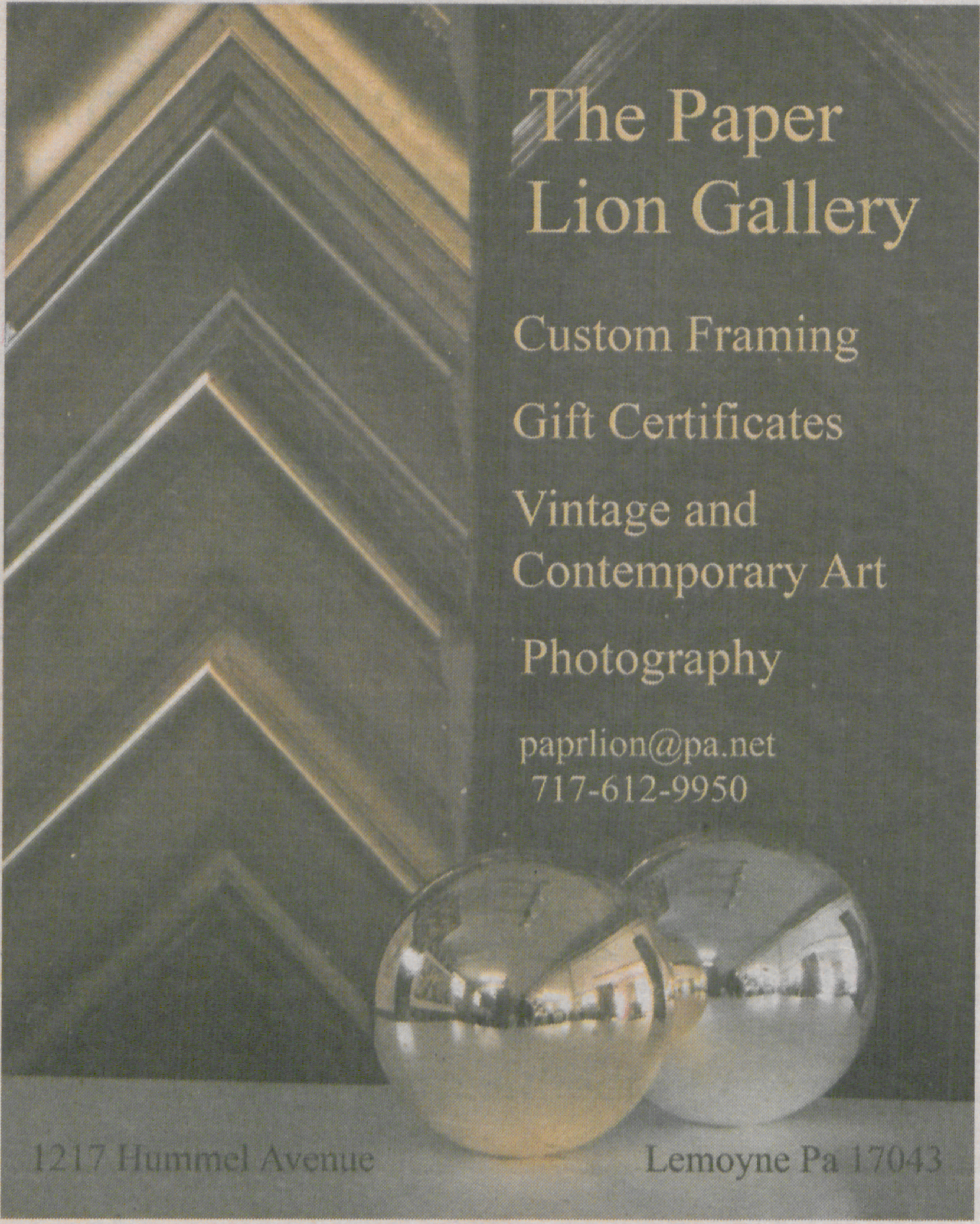

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ARTS at 510 Hosts Harold Altman Retrospective

The old adage that artists aren't famous or collectible until after they die is not necessarily true. The late Harold Altman enjoyed a huge following from fine art collectors during his lifetime and afterwards in central Pennsylvania. In fact, his works, both black and white and color lithographs, have and are still held in high esteem and praise from galleries, collectors and museums throughout the world.

Arts at 510, 510 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, hosts Harold Altman: A Retrospective exhibit of his works Nov. 2- Nov. 30. Gallery owner Susan Schreckengaust says, "We have watched his works continually sell over many years [previously at The William Ris Gallery of Camp Hill] and this is a tremendous opportunity to bring out for sale our esteemed collection that shows his quality and range of work from the 60s to the 80s. His popularity continues to soar and for very good reason. Every time we sell one of his works, we almost hate to see it go, just like an old friend. But we know it always finds a 'good home' where it will be cherished for generations."

Altman's are represented in nearly every significant collection in the world. New York's Museum of Modern Art owns over 40 Altmans, while the Whitney and Brooklyn Museums each have over 50 of his works in their permanent collections. Outside of the U.S., his works can be seen at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam, the Kunst Museum of Basel, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Copenhagen and the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris.

Info: 717.724.0364; www.artsat510.com.

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Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball

3rd and Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm-9.30 pm

Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50

Harrisburg Ladies Night Out

PO Box 266
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL

Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl

HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women. Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region

3623 Green Street • Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Wheelchair Accessible: no
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses, call for location
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles

Rainbow Pride Rural Project

2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-2127
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg, Pa.

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality

Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Building
Box 89
Shippensburg, Pa 17265
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club

Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.

Susquehanna Valley Bears

PO Box 61478 Harrisburg, PA
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: secretarysvbears@yahoo.com or info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc

PO Box 401
HARRISBURG, PA 17108-0401
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm

The Rainbow Bowling League

Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.

Women's Circle

P.O Box 99
Highspire, PA 17034
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
email: womenscircle@gmail.com
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Bewitching Billie Burke

by John DiLeo

It's one of the more famous entrances in movies, a pinkish bubble descending from the sky and materializing as a golden-tressed, wand-wielding figure in a glittering crown and gown. If that weren't enough, her first utterance is as memorable a character-introducing line as has ever been spoken: "Are you a good witch or a bad witch?"

She, of course, is Glinda, Good Witch of the North, as played by a 55-year-old yet delicately pretty Billie Burke in The Wizard of Oz (1939). Glinda has been having a resurgence thanks to Wicked, the popular Broadway musical adaptation of Gregory Maguire's prequel take on the early lives of Oz's most renowned witches. So, it seems a fitting time to celebrate the most iconic of Glindas, the wonderful Burke. Glinda was not a typical or especially demanding Burke film role, and it's actually her work outside Oz that deserves our highest regard.

Burke was a Broadway star of the early twentieth century and appeared in sixteen silent films (1916-21). She was equally famous as the wife of theatrical impresario Florenz Ziegfeld in a marriage that lasted from 1914 until Ziegfeld's death in 1932, the year Burke went to Hollywood and forged a career as a character actress with a definite persona: the flighty, dimwitted society matron. With her cultured yet childlike voice, unique for its tweety vibrato, Burke became an indelible fixture of Hollywood's Golden Age, notably in screwball comedies where she was always someone's ditzy mother.

Talkie audiences first saw her as John Barrymore's wife and Katharine Hepburn's mother in the painfully dated melodrama A Bill of Divorcement (1932), directed by gay George Cukor. The next Cukor-Burke collaboration, Dinner at Eight (1933), in which she played the hostess of the titular meal, established Burke's screen identity. She had one of her best roles in a three-film series of ghostly comedies that began with Topper (1937). Paired with brilliantly deadpan Roland Young (in the title role), Burke was adorably funny as his uptight, proper wife increasingly frazzled by his mystifying actions. The slapdash Topper Takes a Trip (1939) squandered her, but she was the dingbat delight of the otherwise mediocre Topper Returns (1941).

The Great Ziegfeld (1936), MGM's musical biopic, undeservedly won the Best Picture Oscar, apparently bludgeoning the competition with its heft and expense. It's endless and impersonal, with William Powell and Myrna Loy, as Ziegfeld and Burke, respectfully stilted by their responsibilities to their subjects. Loy, perhaps wisely, didn't attempt to imitate Burke. Later, Burke and Loy played sisters in Parnell (1937), a rare Clark Gable flop.

Sometimes there's the accidental pleasure of seeing Burke opposite Frank Morgan (Glinda with the Wizard) in movies, both pre- and post-Oz, like Piccadilly Jim (1936) and Wild Man of Borneo (1941). Another surprise is how Burke retained her effectiveness in dramatic roles after audiences came to count on her as comic relief. In In This Our Life (1942), John Huston's overheated Southern soap in which Bette Davis chews not only the scenery but most of the furniture, Burke, as Davis's sickly mother, delivers a genuinely touching performance, effortlessly proving herself a gifted, versatile actress.

Burke received one Oscar nomination, for her supporting role in Merrily We Live (1938), a strained My Man Godfrey rip-off. As one of her patented wealthy flakes, Burke's work is quintessential, giddy yet mentally blank. The Academy honored her in the right year but for the wrong movie. Burke's finest performance is in Everybody Sing, an early Judy Garland vehicle. The future Glinda and Dorothy, cast as mother and daughter, are unaware that they are mere months away from making screen history together. Burke plays a stage star who is always acting, while Garland is her ugly-duckling teen expelled for "swinging" in music class. Fanny Brice plays their maid, thus placing an authentic Ziegfeld star alongside the master's widow. Despite Garland's singing and Brice's shtick, the film is Burke's as she grandly overreacts to everything, each moment of real life simply fodder for the stage. There's no such thing as a private moment, no situation of which she's not the center. It's one of cinema's funniest portraits of a self-absorbed performer. Burke's scenes make Everybody Sing feel like a screwball classic when it's actually a minor musical in which resides an expert comic turn.

Burke was mother of the groom in Father of the Bride (1950), wrote two autobiographies, and died in 1970, outliving her Dorothy by a year. Her Glinda is eternal yet hardly suggestive of the singular hilarity and unexpected depths of which Burke was capable. Even sans crown and wand, she was a bewitchingly good witch indeed.

John DiLeo's newest book, Screen Savers, will be published this month.

Book Review: CHAOS, A NOVELLA AND STORIES

Edmund White

Carroll & Graf/ISBN-13: 987-0-78672-005-7
(Charles – the second ISBN on uncorrected proof is ISBN-10: 0-7867-2005-0)
Cloth, $21.95, 192 pages

By Frank Pizzoli

"These days the most revolutionary thing you can be is articulate," says Victor LaValle in "Slapboxing with Jesus." That makes Edmund White a regular Bolshevik.

About his latest book "Chaos, A Novella and Stories" White says "the novella is about me now, but the stories are variations on themes of aging and being gay - a taboo subject."

White's work remains adorned with trademark insights and laughable phrases strewn about. Going right to the point with succinct phrases remains the hallmark of White's prose: "smelly with youth," "that fatal ten-inch dick," or "the urgent need to have their foreskins mistreated."

The three stories portray unmooring changes experienced by older gay men as they page-turn through their lives, filled with relationships, tricks and triumphs. All four pieces continue White's brutal self exploration commenced in his four-volume autobiography, A Boy's Own Story (1982) and The Beautiful Room Is Empty (1988), The Farewell Symphony (1997), and The Married Man (2000).

The three long stories each illustrate dimensions of gay male life – like billboards on the homo highway of life. "Record Time" is a delicious piece on loneliness and filling the void. Every precocious little future fag of America has had these moments. Even sweaty farm boys. Only details differ with this boyhood process concocted by Mother Drag Queen to steel homos against a life of hatreds, snubs, and bullying, especially men born mid-20th century.

For naïve kids like me who grew up in two-street patches and thought that occupancy certificates were jokes from a novelty store, descriptions of a precious boy were soothing.

"Give It Up for Billy" is a comfort meal at a favorite diner. A great companion piece to Christopher Bram's excerpt "Exiles in America" in BLOOM (Winter 2007), the story revolves around an older fellow, his not-as-old-partner, Key West, and a horny, accessible white African private dancer. White's observations about growing old are rocks tumbled into gems meant to adorn a younger man's body. Couples or anyone who's had relationships along the way will move easily into the emotional spaces.

"A Good Sport" portrays an older man who's given up, retreating into a world of opium-powered daydreams about his youth in Istanbul. "Every simple statement invariably disguises several messy truths," White's character wryly observes early. His wonderful conclusion, not overdrawn, gives men permission to reflect sweetly on expired years.

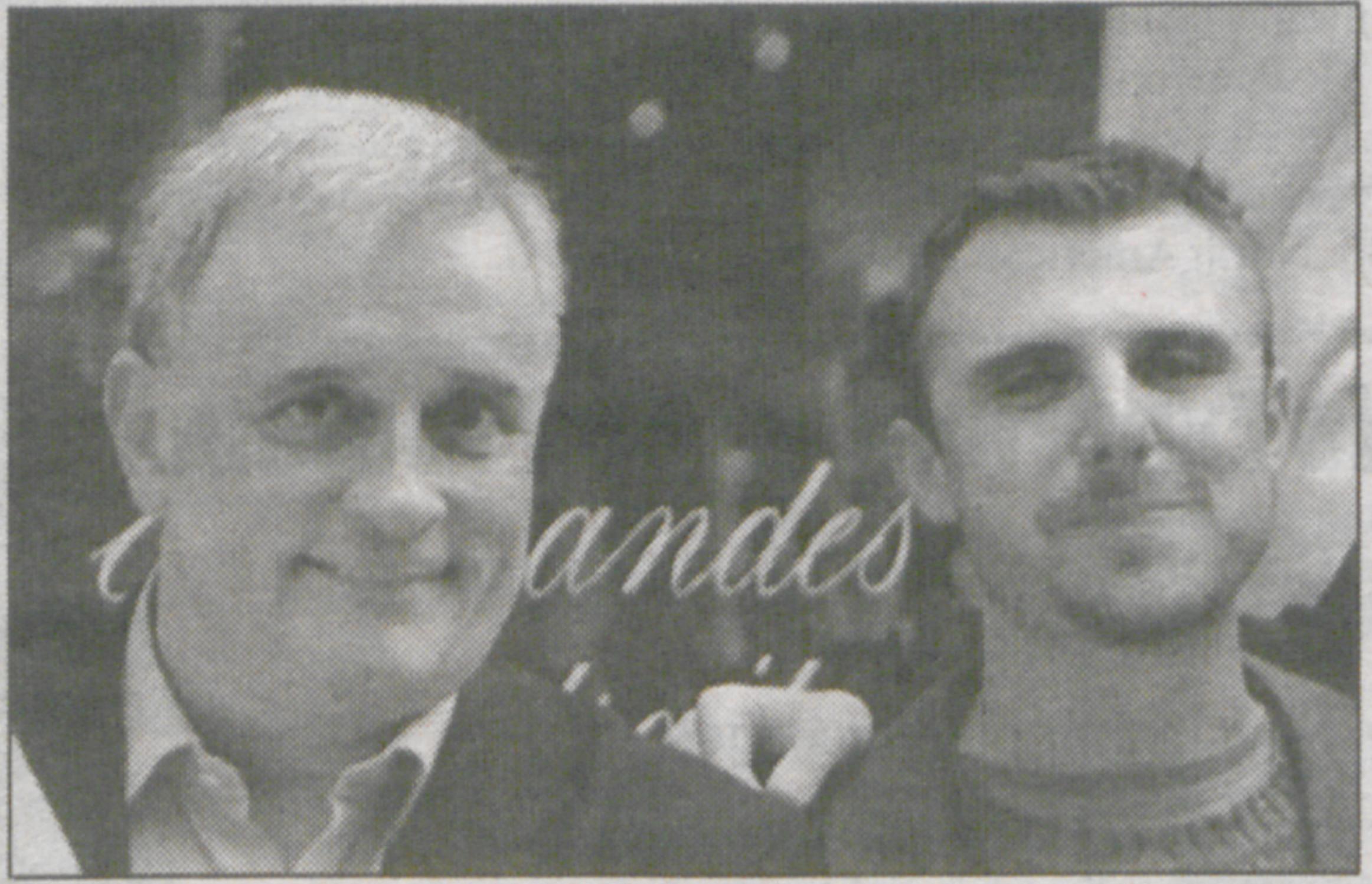
As in much of his work, in his novella White is everyman's "out loud," the guy in every friendly circle who utters what all the others are thinking, but are too encumbered to spit out themselves. Yet he's not all bullhorn and retains a strong interior dialogue. "Chaos," takes place in Chelsea in recent years, where muscle boys seek out clones in order to make their narcissism three dimensional. There in White's relationship with "Seth," his pay-as-you-go boyfriend, his ruminations reflect what many men go through struggling to stay tethered to their younger years. White spins like a top the adage one can "do" but not date younger man. Another character becomes "stupid heir to his own younger, smarter self." In some ways the old seem foolish and the young wise or at least more agile in their manipulations, while the old more docile in the face of their negotiated trade-offs.

The novella also captures the subdued gloom of the Internet, a dot-com Las Vegas of Sex with one dim setting for the lights and more miserly winnings than slots. As described to Stephen Barber, White's "compelling fascination...for the beauty of the male human body, for sex and for death, and for the impulses behind creativity" still throbs. He told Barber in "Edmund White: The Burning World" (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999), "I do think that sex is something worth dying for. I believe what art is primarily about is beauty, and what beauty is about is death." From his Chelsea tales, White's world still burns that brightly.

Edmund White Interview continued

Public Library were Thomas Mann's "Death in Venice," which suggested that homosexuality was fetid, platonic and death-dealing and the biography of Nijinsky by his wife, in which she obliquely deplored the demonic influence of the impresario Diaghilev on her saintly husband, the great dancer—an influence that in this instance had produced not death but madness."

In the mid-1970s, White and six other gay New York writers—Andrew Holleran, Robert Ferro, Felice Picano, George Whitmore, Christopher Cox, and Michael Grumley—formed a casual club known as the Violet Quill. Meeting in one another's apartments, they would read and critique one another's work, then move on to high tea. Together they represented a flowering of the kind of gay writing Edmund White as a teenager in Illinois had longed to discover. White's novels include his allegorical fantasia on Fire Island life, "Forgetting Elena (1973),""Nocturnes for the King of Naples (1978)," and the first two volumes of a projected autobiographical tetralogy, "A Boy's Own Story" (1982) and "The Beautiful Room Is Empty" (1988). White completed the tetralogy with "The Farewell Symphony" (1997) and "The Married Man" (2000). His newest book, "Chaos, A Novella and Stories" is now in bookstores.



Edmund White and **Michael Carroll**
just prior to move to States.

In 1983 he moved to France; when he returned in 1990 it was to a literary landscape devastated by AIDS. Four members of the Violet Quill—Ferro, Grumley, Cox and Whitmore—had died, as well as numerous other promising young writers such as Tim Dlugos and John Fox. White's two closest friends, the critic David Kalstone and his editor Bill Whitehead, were also dead from the disease. He has written, "For me, these losses were definitive. The witnesses to my life, the people who had shared the same references and sense of humor, were gone. The loss of all the books they might have written remains incalculable."

Although White is known as a novelist whose work has been widely praised by such writers as Vladimir Nabokov and Susan Sontag, it is as a cultural critic that White has perhaps had his greatest influence. Urbane, knowing, sophisticated, he has chronicled gay life in the seventies through the nineties with wit and insight. He has become a grand arbiter of taste, though he has been criticized for the narrowness of that taste—especially after his 1992 anthology "Gay Short Fiction" contained no writing by men of color. Nevertheless, his 1980 travelogue "States of Desire: Travels in Gay America" remains a classic if insouciant (and now poignant) look at gay life at a particular cultural moment just before the onslaught of AIDS. His pioneering 1977 "The Joy of Gay Sex: An Intimate Guide for Gay Men to the Pleasures of a Gay Life," written with Dr. Charles Silverstein, introduced millions, gay and straight and curious alike, to a brave new world of sexual practices and lifestyle.

The cumulative effect of White's presence simultaneously within so many different genres was to begin to define, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the parameters of "gay culture," whatever that evolving entity might be. AIDS, of course, has darkened all that, and White has written of the dilemma facing gay writers today: "Some . . . think that it's unconscionable to deal with anything [other than AIDS]; others believe that since gay culture is in imminent danger of being reduced to a single issue, one that once again equates homosexuality with a dire medical condition, the true duty of gay writers is to remind readers of the wealth of gay accomplishments. Only in that way, they argue, will a gay heritage be passed down to a post-plague generation." White's own choice has been clear: his most recent work is a monumental biography of the French novelist and playwright Jean Genet that celebrates this treasure of our gay heritage, and argues for the centrality of Genet's homosexuality to any consideration of his oeuvre. As for Edmund White, he and his work—privileged, literate, sophisticated, hedonistic—remain central to any consideration of gay male upper-middle-class life in late 20th-century America.

INTERVIEW

In your collection of essays, "Arts and Letters" you wrote "in those years long before gay liberation no one could write a proud, self respecting, self affirming gay text, since no gay man, no matter how clever had found a way to like himself." Can we ever expect that someone will write from a different point of view? Has that happened?

Yes, because I was really talking about before 1969. That is, I was trying to point out that people as brilliant as James Baldwin or Marcel Proust never gave a positive portrait of homosexuality at all. Although Baldwin, to be fair, tried in his last book, "Just Above My Head," but there it had to be in the family, between two teenage, very innocent black guys who were both musicians.

Early portrayals of homosexuality had to be heavily coded?

They're all filters. He had to go to fairly extreme measures. And anyway that book was written long after gay liberation, so I guess my real point is that before gay liberation there really aren't that many books that show homosexuality in a positive light. "City of Night," no. Jean Genet, no. If the three possible ideas of homosexuality were that it was a crime, a sin, or mental illness, Genet at least chose the strongest position, which is that it was a crime. Calling it a crime is a healthier point of view than saying it is a mental illness, which is the one description most middle class people chose.

Your answer reflects what you wrote in "Arts and Letters" about a time "When no homosexual could defend his identity as anything other than an illness, a sin or a crime." Does that identity persist today given that suicide rates among gay teens are so high; the highest number of teenage runaways are gay teens? Critics say we fought for sexual liberation and sexual liberation only, and we ended up with AIDS.

Also, alcoholism. They say that one out of every four gays is an alcoholic. I don't know. The sexual liberation equals AIDS is, well, ridiculous. Frankly, we weren't reading a crystal ball. We had no idea what the results of the promiscuity would be. The truth is that Americans are so moralistic that they want to blame AIIDS on promiscuity. But I have a very dear friend, my best friend, who died of AIDS and he had sex only six times in his life. There is actually a dangerous aspect to all this. It's as though people think that if they have sex with just one person, or if they know their names, or just sex with three people, then they can have unsafe sex, because they are not like those sluts who are having sex with a hundred people, but having safe sex. But the truth is that the person that is having sex with three people unsafely is much more at risk than the person that is having sex with 100 people using condoms. So I would say that this whole way of linking promiscuity to AIDS is not only cruel and wrong and ahistorical, since nobody back in the late '70s early '80s knew that it was going to lead to AIDS. But on the other hand for people today, it is a misleading and dangerous idea.

In "The City and the Pillar," Gore Vidal says about homosexuality that he wanted to show "the dead on normalcy of it all," careful to also clarify that the book wasn't based on his life and the characters he wrote about he didn't really know of from real life.

I haven't read in years, but as I recall, there's a lot of trying to get straight sailors in bed, and there's a lot of catty bitchy dialogue between the gays, which is all fine and that is interesting and was true of the period.

I certainly don't want to be an apostle for positive role models or political correctness of any sort. But I feel that what is remarkable is that no matter how intelligent the authors are, you have to wait until you get to (Christopher) Isherwood in "A Single Man" before a reader can find a picture of a guy that is just a guy. There's no one who's gay, no ideology, you don't know how he came to be that way. He has a lover that has just died, he teaches in school, he's English living in Los Angles, and he has friends who are also English and who are straight. So in other words it's a life like any other. And that is remarkable, that is the real breakthrough of Isherwood's book. And, of course, he published it six years before gay liberation begins.

When I speculate on how Isherwood beat everybody else to the punch, I think it's partly because he was connected to the first gay liberation of Magnus Hirschfeld in Berma. He lived in Hirschfeld's house. He has a lot of class confidence because he was upper middle-class and he lived in California, which was the kind of breeding ground for new ideas about homosexuality. All those guys who discovered they were gay in the war and who didn't go home and stayed in those beach communities in order to perpetuate some kind of freedom far from their families. That was the really beginning of the new ideas of homosexuality and, of course, they had an early gay magazine – One magazine.

Edmund White in his Paris apartment, 11 rue St Martin.

Was it a muscle man?

No, that was something else. That was Grecian Guild or whatever. These were gay magazines that had long articles by shrinks about homosexuality and it was called One. It wasn't what we would consider very liberating, but the fact that it existed at all is remarkable.

And when a psychiatrist in these days would write about homosexuality it was to temper the negative?

No, it still is negative. But in those days things were so, well it's like if you were black you were thrilled to see Stephen Fetchit in the movies because there were no other images and it was at least something, some image. So in the same way, gays would say "Oh, now this is an important psychiatrist and he's a heterosexual and he's thinking about our problems, so we should all be very flattered." That was where they were in their consciousness.

So in the original admonition of Harry Hay's Mattachine Society that activists ought to show up in clean white shirts, black ties, and their little coats, our West coast predecessors also thought queers should present like Ozzy and Harriet?

Right, that was the idea. Because I think that the public conception was Liberace, or the idea was that you were some bleach blond working as a waiter.

What about diversity in our community. Have we achieved diversity, a frequent demand we make of others, within our own community?

I think so. For instance, recently I attended, with Larry Kramer and others from those years, the Gay Men's Health Crisis 20th anniversary. One reason we named it "gay men's" health crisis is because we didn't want to have to deal with lesbians. At that point, 1981, there were still among gay men sore feelings about recent encounters with lesbians in any kind of political or community activity. There was still a period of lesbian separatism. There were a lot of hostile feelings. Twenty years later, at the anniversary dinner, easily half the people there were lesbians, at a dress-up dinner with Sen. Hilary Clinton and Rosie O'Donnell. It was just a marvelous warm atmosphere.

How about movement versus market? Have we swallowed the media cool aid on gay TV programming, Logo, here! TV?

Well, I think there are two things. There are official label "gay culture" with Logo and a lot of the Queer Eye stuff. There's that, and then there are all of these fascinating gay people actually making great works of art. They happen to be gay, but that is not the main burden of what they are doing. They are Michael Cunningham, or Jasper Johns, or John Ashbery, or all those great ballet dancers. Lots of musicians. There are a lot of extraordinary people in the world.

Two things have been devastating to New York City, and explain why New York is a lot duller a city now that it was 20 years ago. First, the cost of living in New York has driven out all the young people. You used to be able to be a waiter two nights a week, support yourself the rest of the time, and you could go to your Herbert Berkoff class and learn how to be an actor. But now, no. That's the main reason why New York is dull these days. But I think the other reason is that a lot of the really interesting gay people died off in the 1980s. I did a piece for Art Forum that was a tribute to a lot of people in the arts who have died, and they weren't people who made "gay art."

They made art that was well received.

Yeah that's right. I just think of one, Scott Burton, who was a sculptor who made chairs in marble and granite and different materials. He was a famous artist in the 1980s and he was gay, he was in the leather bars every night of his life. But he never made anything "gay" that I know of.

Interviewed by Frank Pizzoli

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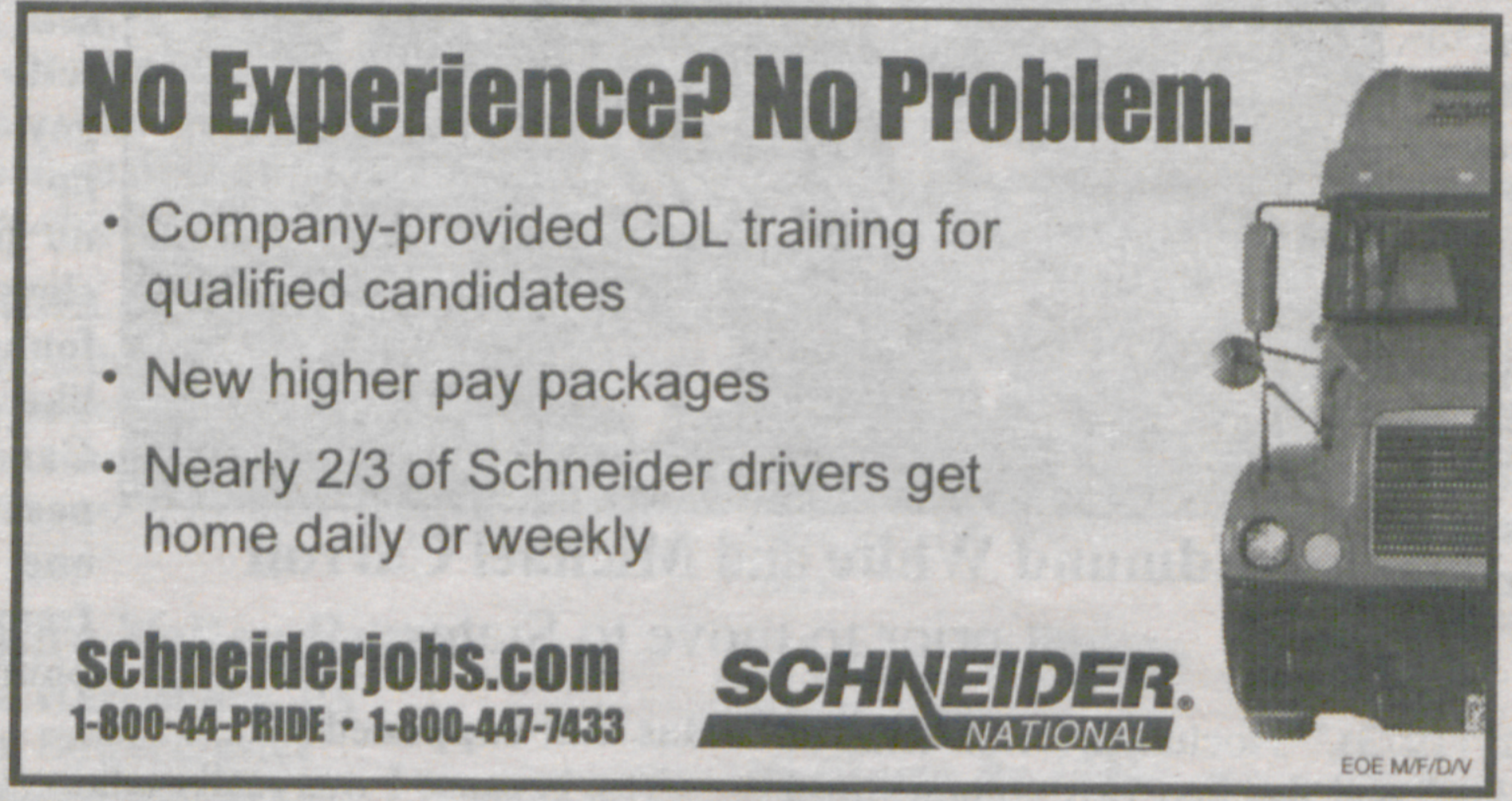

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News page

"Ex-Gay" Counselor Convicted of Sexual Assault on Man

An Irvine, Texas "ex-gay" counselor has been convicted of sexually assaulting a male client, ordered to register as a sex offender, and sentenced to ten years in prison. Chris Austin, a preacher with Renew Ministries, received seven years' probation even though he was sentenced to a decade in prison. Austin was also fined $2,500, according to Queerty, an alternative news source. "The abuse apparently involved a bit of unwanted penetration," Queerty reported, noting that a previous claim from 2001 pitted Austin against a man named Mark Hufford, who brought a civil suit against the preacher based on similar accusations, but later dropped it. Austin is the founder of Renew Ministries, which is a counseling center operating from an Irving, Texas church, and was affiliated with NARTH, the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, and had presented a seminar at a NARTH convention in 2004 called "Understanding and Treating Compulsive Sexual Behavior in Men with Value-Incongruent Homosexual Issues: A Multidimensional Approach."

Wayne Besen, Executive Director of Truth Wins Out, issued a statement that read in part, "We are deeply gratified that this 'ex-gay' predator is no longer in the counseling business, where he exploited his position of authority to sexually abuse vulnerable clients. Ex-gay therapy is extremely dangerous and places confused clients in the hands of repressed therapists. It is a recipe for disaster. As we have seen with Christopher Austin, Mark Foley and Larry Craig, gay people who do not learn to accept themselves act out in unhealthy ways. I hope Austin can use this experience to come out and have healthy gay relationships, so he won't have to exploit other people."

McDonald's Worker Jailed for Serving Cop Salty Hamburger

A Georgia McDonald's worker was recently arrested and jailed for putting too much salt and pepper on a police officer's hamburger. Kendra Bull was mixing hamburger meat when, she said, too much salt and pepper accidentally spilled into the bowl. Bull said her manager was working with her, and continued to make patties out of the meat. Bull grilled and ate one of the over-seasoned burgers for her dinner break and grilled the remaining burgers from the batch. A police officer purchased one of the salty burgers and became sick. The police accused Bull of purposely pouring the salt and pepper on the burger and charged her with reckless conduct. The police photographed the burger, took the sick cop to the hospital, and carted Bull off to jail.

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Sean Penn Plays Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk (R) with friend Jerry Pritikin in 1978.

The much-anticipated biopic of Harvey Milk, the first prominent American political figure to be out of the closet, will star Sean Penn. Two Hollywood directors are to make biopics of Milk and Penn is to star in the Gus Van Sant version. They will start shooting in San Francisco in December.

X-Men director Bryan Singer is to make his own Milk movie in collaboration with "The Usual Suspects" writer Christopher McQuarrie.

Van Sant directed "My Own Private Idaho," " Drugstore Cowboy" and "Only Cowgirls Get The Blues."

Harvey Milk was probably the first out gay male politician in American history. Known during his lifetime as "The Mayor of Castro Street," he is regarded as a political icon amongst gay activists for his ability to build the LGBT community into a grassroots political force.

Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. In his 11 months in office he sponsored a gay rights bill and helped to defeat a proposition that would have seen openly gay and lesbian teachers sacked.

He was gunned down at City Hall by Dan White, a disgruntled former Supervisor, on November 27th 1978. It is reported that Matt Damon will play White in the Van Sant biopic.

White also killed the city's mayor in his gun rampage. Milk was recently honored with a bust on permanent display in San Francisco City Hall, a rare accolade for someone who never held the position of Mayor. It will be a permanent reminder of the unique place the city of San Francisco had in forming a new, politically active gay identity in the 1970s.

Milk had foreseen his own untimely death, and made several audio tapes to be played if he was assassinated. One had recorded upon it his most famous statement, "If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door."

When White only received seven years in jail for Milk's murder, San Francisco's gay community rioted. More than 160 people were injured.

Many gay and lesbian community institutions are named in his honor, among them the Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, the Harvey Milk Institute, the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Democratic Club, and the Harvey Milk High School in New York City.

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Public Hearings

Basic PA Civil Rights Proposed for GLBT Taxpayers

Movement on basic civil rights for glbt taxpayers is moving along. The Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee recently passed a statewide lgbt nondiscrimination resolution in support of legislation. Both state houses have measures before them.

"I'm proud to announce that the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee has unanimously passed a resolution introduced by the glbt caucus, supporting legislation that will add sexual orientation and gender identity or expression to Pennsylvania's existing non-discrimination law," says Beth Shupp-George, caucus chair.

The next caucus meeting is March, 2008. www.padems.com or contact Shupp-George, 717-830-0622; chair@franklincountydems.org

Hearings

In October, State Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, hosted a public hearing Oct. 4 in Pittsburgh on his House Bill 1400 protecting people who live or work in Pennsylvania from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing or credit. The House State Government Committee also held hearings around the state that month.

The house bill has 75 sponsors. The Senate version, Senate Bill 761, has 22 sponsors.

Pennsylvania's Human Relations Act already bans discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, a non-job related handicap or disability or the use of a guide or support animal due to a person being blind, deaf or having a physical handicap.

On the federal level, nearly two-thirds of all American adults (64%) believe it is unfair that federal law currently allows for an employer to fire someone because they are gay or lesbian. A similar majority (60%) of heterosexual adults were not even aware that federal law does not provide protections for employees on the basis of sexual orientation. An overwhelming majority (79%) of heterosexuals also feel that how an employee does his or her job, and not their sexual orientation, should be the standard for judging an employee. When it comes to the issue of transgender employees in the work place, two thirds of heterosexuals (67%) also agree that employee performance should be the standard by which they are judged and not whether they are transgender.

End Discrimination – Send a Letter

Find your state representative here: http://www.house.state.pa.us/index.cfm
Find your state senator here: http://www.pasen.gov/index.cfm

Dear State Senator (or Representative) ________________,

I am writing to urge you to support SB 761 (or HB1400), a bill to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in employment, housing and public accommodations. As a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied community, I feel it is important for all members of our society to be protected from discrimination.

An overwhelming majority of Americans believe that hard working and law-abiding citizens should not be discriminated against in the workplace, yet under Pennsylvania law, it is legal to fire someone simply for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

I ask that you take a stand for equality by supporting civil rights bills that protect lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender Pennsylvanians from discrimination.

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